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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Bouteflika Holds News Conference in Cairo *[MENA]* 1
Departs for London After Talks *[MENA]* 1

Arab-Israeli Talks

Gaza-Jericho Committee To Resume Meetings 26 Oct *[MENA]* 2
Shaykh Cited on 22 Oct Gaza-Jericho Meetings *[Sanaa YOP]* 2
PNC's Ra'fat Calls for Dismantling Gaza Settlements *[MENA]* 2

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Boycott Meetings 'Postponed Indefinitely' *[SANA]* 3
Arab League Issues Statement Marking UN Anniversary *[MENA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

Two Israeli Soldiers Kidnapped, Murdered in Gaza 3
Hamas Claims Responsibility *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
'Abd-al-Shafi Comments on Attack *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 3
Further on 'Abd-al-Shafi Comments *[Jerusalem International]* 4
DFLP Forces Carry Out 'Death Sentence' in Gaza *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
Claim Attack on Israeli Patrol *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
Assassination of al-Sallawi Draws Reaction, Response 4
'Arafat Urges 'Continuation of Struggle' *[Algiers VOP]* 4
Fatah Declares State of Alert *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Delegate Denies Involvement *[Jerusalem International TV]* 5
Palestinians Seen Facing 'Arduous Test' *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Fatah Officials Said Under House Arrest in Gaza *[AFP]* 6
'Arafat Delivers Speech, Comments on Peace in Paris 6
Addresses UNESCO Council *[Algiers VOP]* 6
Details Post-Accord Goals *[Paris International]* 8
Expresses Gratitude for Support *[Algiers VOP]* 8
Al-Hasayna Discusses 'Arafat's Paris Visit *[AL-SAFIR 23 Oct]* 8
Negotiator on Taba Talks, Prisoner Release *[Jerusalem International]* 10
Source: 760 Detainees To Be Freed 24 Oct *[MENA]* 10
PLO Receives Invitations to Multilaterals *[Sanaa YOP]* 11
'Ashrawi Declines Appointment as PLO Envoy *[AL-AHALI 25 Oct]* 11
Abu-'Ayyash on Palestinian Radio, TV Station *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Three French Citizens Kidnapped by Armed Group *[Paris TV]* 13
Minister Denounces Kidnapping *[Algiers TV]* 13
FIN Official Calls for Release *[Paris Radio]* 13
Minister Urges 'Full Participation' in Talks *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Army Determined To Stay Neutral *[Algiers Radio]* 14

Kafi, Media Debate Dialogue Committee Powers *[Algiers TV]* 14
Media Urged To Play Role *[Algiers TV]* 14
FIS Spokesman Says Madani 'Seriously Ill' *[Paris International]* 14

Egypt

Mubarak Leaves For Washington 23 Oct *[MENA]* 16
Arrives in Washington *[MENA]* 16
Mubarak on Ties with U.S. *[MENA]* 16
Musa on Meeting With Clinton *[MENA]* 17
Musa Views Talks in Washington *[Cairo International]* 17
Commentary Pins 'Great Hopes' on Summit *[Cairo Radio]* 18
'Positive Results' Expected *[Cairo Radio]* 19
Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman Retrial To Resume *[MENA]* 19
Security Forces Seize 14 'Terrorists' *[MENA]* 19
'Terrorist' Killed, Others Hurt in Prison Clash *[MENA]* 20
Man Shot Dead in Asyut; Revenge Suspected *[MENA]* 20
Commander Views Navy's Tasks, Modernization *[MENA]* 20

Libya

Officer Executions Following Coup Bid Reported *[London MBC TV]* 20
Potential for Rebellion Viewed *[Paris International]* 21

Morocco

King Asks Opposition To Take Part in Government *[Rabat TV]* 21
'Ali Yata on Preparatory Meeting *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Oct]* 21

Sudan

Al-Bashir Orders End to Curfew in Khartoum *[AFP]* 22
Government Devalues Currency Against Dollar *[AFP]* 23
Minister Discusses Constitutional Revisions *[Omdurman Radio]* 23
Opposition Leaders Reportedly Admit Mistakes *[SUNA]* 23
Internal Opposition Bans Government Contacts *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Oct]* 23
Accord Reached With Ethiopia on Customs Posts *[Nairobi KNA]* 24
Ethiopian Minister Arrives To Discuss Somalia *[SUNA]* 24

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Amir, U.S. Official Discuss Regional Issues *[BUNA]* 25

Kuwait

Official Meets UN Envoys on Security Corridor *[KUNA]* 25
Man Given Life Sentence for Iraqi Collaboration *[KUNA]* 25

Oman

Deputy Prime Minister Leaves for Yemen *[BUNA]* 25

Saudi Arabia

Bhutto Arrives in Jeddah From Cyprus 23 Oct *[Islamabad Radio]* 25
Condemns 'Atrocities' in Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 25
Received by King Fahd *[SPA]* 26

United Arab Emirates

Pakistan's Bhutto Departs After Talks *[WAM]* 26

Yemen

Delegation Departs for Riyadh Border Talks *[Sanaa Radio]* 26
Two British 'Spies' Reportedly Apprehended *[INA]* 26
Attempt To Hijack Egyptian Airliner Foiled *[MENA]* 26
Salih Receives Omani Envoy, Qabus Message *[Sanaa Radio]* 27
Al-Bid Receives Oman's al-Zawawi *[Sanaa Radio]* 27
Agreements Signed With Vietnam Delegation *[Sanaa Radio]* 27
Al-'Attas on Union, GPC-YSP Tension *[MENA]* 28
Al-Ahmar Discusses Constitutional Changes *[MENA]* 28

IRAQ

U.S. Embassy in Amman Denies 'Aziz Meeting *[AKHIR KHABAR 24-25 Oct]* 29
U.S. 'Plan' Against Iraqi Soccer Team Decried *[INA]* 29
'Deep Concern' Over Saudi Soccer Fans *[INA]* 29
Reasons for 'Aziz Visit to France Questioned *[Paris LE MONDE 21 Oct]* 29
Physician Confirms 'Aziz Treatment *[Paris TV]* 30
UK Parliamentarian on Chemical Gas Attack in South *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 30
Radio Reports Regime's 'Repressive' Measures *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 31
Regime Reportedly Disarms Tribes in Tikrit *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 31
Minister Given 'New Responsibilities' as Governor *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 17 Oct]* 31

ISRAEL

Explosion Reported Near French Embassy in Tel Aviv *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Kahana Hay Claims Responsibility *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Hamas 'Terrorists' Kill 2 IDF Soldiers in Gaza Strip *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Rabin Comments on 'Delicate' Gaza Situation *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Rabin Discusses Terror, Coalition, Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Rabin: Settlements To Remain 'Where They Are' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Aloni, Der'i, Shahal on Terror, Prisoner Release *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Peres on Ross Visit, Talks with Syria, Palestinians *[Jerusalem TV]* 35
Peres Accuses Syria of Adopting 'Rigid' Positions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Syrian, Israeli Academics Reportedly Meet in Oslo *[HADASHOT 22 Oct]* 37
Syria Said To Reject Proposals To Advance Talks *[HA'ARETZ 24 Oct]* 37
Shahal Calls on al-Asad To Adopt 'Decisive Stand' *[Jerusalem International]* 37
'Some 700' Palestinian Prisoners To Be Released 38
Minister: Release To Begin 25 Oct *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 38
Hamas, Islamic Jihad Release Delayed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Palestinian, 24, Dies in Nablus Prison *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Two 'Terrorists' Killed, 2 IDF Wounded in South *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Commentary Criticizes U.S. Middle East Policy *[HA'ARETZ 25 Oct]* 39

JORDAN

Iraq's 'Aziz Arrives in Amman En Route to Baghdad *[NABA' AL-SHA'B 24 Oct]* 41
Yemeni Minister Arrives With Message *[Amman Radio]* 41
King Husayn Receives al-Iryani *[Amman Radio]* 41
Yemen's al-Iryani Departs *[Amman TV]* 41
Qatari Amir's Brother Departs Amman After Visit *[Amman Radio]* 41
Abu-Nuwar on Prince Hasan Meeting With Peres *[Amman Radio]* 41
Reasons for Postponing Damascus Meeting Cited *[JORDAN TIMES 24 Oct]* 42
U.S. 'Pressure' To End Boycott Scored *[AL-RAY 24 Oct]* 42
End of Israeli Radio 'Propaganda' Viewed *[AL-RAY 25 Oct]* 43

Al-Majali Departs for UNESCO Meeting in France *[PETRA]* 44
Team on Water Talks Departs for Beijing *[JORDAN TIMES 24 Oct]* 44
Government Campaign Against IAF in Election Seen *[JORDAN TIMES 24 Oct]* 45

LEBANON

Buwayz, Iranian Envoy Discuss Regional Issues *[IRNA]* 46
Envoy Comments on Hizballah *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Interior Minister Mirhij Leaves For Damascus *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Al-Hariri Leaves for Damascus 'Consultations' *[VOA]* 46
Al-Hariri Returns 24 Oct *[Beirut Radio]* 46
PSP's Junblatt Meets U.S. Charge d'Affaires *[Shanghai VOA]* 46
Toxic Waste Said Arriving From Europe *[MENA]* 46
Israeli, Resistance Activities in South Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Two SLA Posts Hit, 'Violent' Shelling *[VOA]* 47
Clashes in South, Casualties Updated *[VOA]* 47
Resistance on 24 Oct Operations *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 47
Mufti Qabalan Supports Jazzin-First Proposal *[Beirut Radio]* 48

SYRIA

UK's Foreign Secretary Arrives 22 Oct for Visit 49
Britain Interested in 'Durable Peace' *[Damascus TV]* 49
Official Talks Held 23 Oct *[Damascus Radio]* 49
UK's 'Active Role' Welcomed *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Hurd Holds News Conference *[SANA]* 49
Hurd Warns Against Delay in Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Hurd Makes Statement, Departs Damascus *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Al-Hariri: Lebanese-Syrian Interests 'Intertwined' *[Beirut Radio]* 51
Ambassador to Iran Views PLO-Israeli Accord *[IRNA]* 52

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Two Afghan Aid Workers Killed in Kabul *[AFP]* 53
Natural Gas Accord Signed With Tajikistan *[Tehran Radio]* 53

India

Situation Surrounding Hazratbal Mosque Updated 53
'At Least 31' Killed *[AFP]* 53
36 Die as Troops Fire on Mobs *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Death Toll in Shootings Reaches 37 *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Inquiry Ordered Into 22 Oct Shootings *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Bhutto Mention of Kashmir at Commonwealth Scored *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Pakistanis, Afghans, Kuwaitis in Shrine *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Area Around Shrine Said Calm *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Situation Around Shrine 'Peaceful' *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Negotiations Held Through Intermediaries *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Further on Talks With 'Militants' *[Delhi Radio]* 56
AFP: Kashmiri Separatists Given Food 56
Delhi Confirms Food Provided to Occupants 57
U.S. Said 'Aiding, Abetting Terrorists' *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Air Force on 'High Alert' *[Islamabad TV]* 58
BJP: Pakistan Waging 'Proxy War' in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 58
U.S. Seen Behaving as 'World Policeman' *[AFP]* 58

Iran

'Missile War Game' in Persian Gulf Begins *[Tehran Radio]* 59
Maneuvers Continue in Gulf *[IRNA]* 59
Planned Missile Test With DPRK Denied *[IRNA]* 59
Visit by Egypt's Mubarak to Washington Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 59
Commentary Questions Need for Western Loans *[SALAM TEHRAN]* 60
Efforts to 'Encourage' U.S. Ties Criticized *[RESALAT TEHRAN]* 61

Larijani Comments on U.S. Policy in Somalia *[ETTELA AT 14 Oct]* 61
MKO 'Agents' Reportedly Stationed Near Border *[IRNA]* 62
Refugee Camps Set Up in Azerbaijan *[Tehran TV]* 63
Foreign Ministry Condemns Siege in Kashmir *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Nateq-Nuri Urges Maintaining Sanctity of Majles *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Majles Law Against Misconduct Approved *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Commentary Urges Study of Second 5-Year Plan *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Majles By-Election Date Announced for 2 Areas *[Tehran TV]* 64
Jannati Friday Sermon Views President's Trip *[Tehran Radio]* 64

Pakistan

Further on Events Surrounding Hazratbal Shrine 66
Tear Gas Said Used Against Marchers *[Islamabad Radio]* 66
Deaths Reported as Troops Open Fire *[Islamabad Radio]* 66
President Urges International Intervention *[Islamabad International]* 66
Foreign Minister Condemns Hazratbal 'Siege' *[Islamabad Radio]* 67
Bhutto Urges Action on UN Kashmir Resolutions *[Islamabad Radio]* 67
Bhutto Urges India To Withdraw From Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 67
Broaching Kashmir Issue at Commonwealth Praised *[THE MUSLIM 24 Oct]* 67

Butrus-Ghali Holds News Conference in Cairo

NC2310211093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1831 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali arrived here this evening from Addis Ababa on a few hours' visit to Egypt following a 14-day African tour. He will travel from Egypt to London.

During a news conference he held upon his arrival, Dr. Butrus-Ghali, answering a question from a MENA correspondent, said that during his first visit to Cairo he discussed the situation in Somalia and the measures necessary to find a peaceful solution to this problem following the withdrawal of U.S., Belgian, and French troops with President Mubarak in his capacity as OAU chairman and with the general secretaries of the OAU and the Arab League. He emphasized that the UN Charter calls for cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations.

Dr. Butrus-Ghali denied that he met with General Farah Aidid or any of his aides during his visit to Somalia. He noted that he left his assistant for political affairs, James Junah, in Addis Ababa today to hold contacts with various leaders, groups, and factions to find a peaceful settlement of the Somalia problem.

The UN secretary general said that on 15 November he will submit to the Security Council a full report on the situation in Somalia and new proposals to resolve this problem. He stressed that this problem affects neighboring countries, including Ethiopia. He added that the United Nations will continue its humanitarian aid to Somalia.

At the beginning of his news conference at Cairo Airport, Dr. Butrus-Ghali explained the purpose of his African tour, which took him to Djibouti, Mauritius, Mozambique, Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia. He pointed out that he visited Djibouti as a neighbor of Somalia and that he held a positive discussion with Djibouti's President Hasan Gouled to find out that country's position on the Somali crisis, particularly since a large number of Somali refugees are in Djibouti. This poses a threat to the security situation in that country, he said. Dr. Butrus-Ghali noted that he visited Mauritius to meet with the European and African leaders who attended the francophone summit.

On his visit to Mozambique, Dr. Butrus-Ghali said an agreement had been reached between the government and the Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] movement to set a date for the election, form the committee that will handle reconciliation between them, and establish the security force that will supervise the election. He added that he met with several South African leaders in the Mozambique capital of Maputo, including Prime Minister [title as received] Pik Botha, the head of the Inkatha opposition party, the African National Congress leader, and leaders of a number of non-governmental organizations to prepare for the election set for October 1994.

He added that in Kenya he met with President Daniel Arap Moi to discuss the refugees coming from Angola, an estimated 400,000, as well as arms smuggling from Somalia to Kenya.

Dr. Butrus-Ghali stressed that his visit to Somalia yesterday was primarily for political purposes and to celebrate UN day with the international troops. He noted that he met in Mogadishu and Baidoa with the commander of the Egyptian troops operating there, as well as the Kuwaiti and Moroccan troops. He also visited the military hospital set up by the United Nations. He noted that his visit to Somalia was successful, where he explored the views of the Somali leaders and the commanders of the international troops there on the possibility of finding a solution to the crisis.

On his stopover in Addis Ababa and his meeting with Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi, Dr. Butrus-Ghali said that he met for two hours with President Zenawi to discuss ways to resolve the Somali crisis. He said that he will leave tomorrow, Sunday, for London to meet with British Prime Minister John Major and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd to discuss ways to resolve the problem in the former Yugoslavia and the new initiatives to resolve the problem.

Departs for London After Talks

NC2410154093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1446 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali left Cairo this afternoon for London.

Before his departure, Dr. Butrus-Ghali stated at the airport that he will meet in the British capital with Prime Minister John Major and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd to discuss African issues and the situation in the former Yugoslavia. [passage omitted]

Dr. Butrus-Ghali said that he held talks with Prime Minister Atif Sidqi and discussed the most important international affairs and Egypt's role in them. He added that he expressed the UN's appreciation for Egypt's participation in the UN forces in Bosnia and Somalia.

He noted that he held talks with UN Assistant Secretary General James Junah in Addis Ababa to learn about the developments in the dangerous crisis in Burundi and how to resolve it.

Concluding his statement, he affirmed the importance of cooperation among regional organizations in finding solutions to regional problems and helping the United Nations in its efforts to achieve these solutions.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Gaza-Jericho Committee To Resume Meetings 26 Oct

NC2310143093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli Gaza-Jericho Committee resumes its meetings in Taba Tuesday [26 October] to discuss a number of issues related to the full Israeli pullout of the Gaza Strip and the city of Jericho and the transfer of the territory to the PLO in accordance with the agreement signed in Washington on 13 September.

Informed Palestinian sources in Cairo said most members of the Palestinian delegation decided to stay in Taba to prepare working papers for the meeting.

The sources said that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian side of the committee, met yesterday with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Robert Pelletreau at the request of the latter to discuss issues related to the Gaza-Jericho Committee talks and decisions.

Sha'th Cited on 22 Oct Gaza-Jericho Meetings

JN2510213293 Samaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The heads of the Palestinian and Israeli sides to the Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings held a closed meeting yesterday morning before the Gaza-Jericho Committee resumed its meeting, which lasted until late the night before last. General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli side, emerged from the morning meeting, talked to reporters, and went upstairs to his place of residence apparently to contact with officials in Israel.

Minutes later, Dr. Nabil Sha'th emerged from the meeting hall gloomy, talked to news men and correspondents of international news agencies, attacking the Israeli side in English, and then returned to the meeting hall. He said that the Palestinian and Israeli sides would resume their meeting later.

The Gaza-Jericho Committee resumed its meetings to discuss steps for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces and the entry of the Palestinian forces. Meanwhile, experts from both sides discussed issues of education, demography, health, trade, and traffic between the two sides.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian sides to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, said that during the committee meetings, the Palestinian side is trying to apply the principles agreement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides in order to establish an independent Palestinian state and to enable the Palestinian people to regain their freedom and not to allow the reoccupation of the land or the redeployment of forces.

In statement to reporters at the end of the committee meeting in Taba yesterday afternoon, Dr. Nabil Sha'th said: There is a difference between withdrawal, which means total evacuation of all the Israeli forces, and redeployment of these forces, showing that the Palestinian side will not accept any other concepts of security or continuing the occupation or maintaining it in a different way.

Commenting on what some Israeli delegation members announced about the possibility of the presence of some Israeli forces in liberated areas under the pretext of maintaining security, Sha'th said that the Palestinian forces would be able to ensure security and stability in Gaza and Jericho. He pointed out that during the meetings, the Israeli side stressed that the Israeli forces do not intend to remain in these territories, saying that the Israelis should carry out a total withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in accordance with the agreement and that both sides should work for prosperity, security, and future peace.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th stressed that any security measures in Gaza and Jericho should take place within the framework of comprehensive peace. He added that the Palestinians will be able to maintain law and security in the territories after liberating them and to exercise their complete authority over them. He pointed out that the principles agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis included three supplements covering all the details of the total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho, as well as areas of cooperation to ensure prosperity, security, and future peace for the two peoples.

PNC's Ra'fat Calls for Dismantling Gaza Settlements

NC2510101093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 25 Oct (MENA)—Salih Ra'fat, Palestine National Council member and member of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings, has stressed the Palestinian people's rejection of the existence of Israeli settlements in Gaza, be they political or security settlements. Referring to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's public statement on the settlements, he said that the statement affirms they are political. In a statement to MENA, Ra'fat said that the existence of these settlements in Gaza is considered to be a security problem for both Israel and the Palestinians, not the Palestinians alone. He called on Israel to dismantle these settlements as quickly as possible within the framework of a plan to build confidence and enhance cooperation between the Palestinian national authority and Israel.

On the progress of the talks between the Palestinians and Israelis in the Gaza-Jericho committee meetings in Taba, Ra'fat described the Israeli position as very negative. He said that Israel is erecting obstacles before the talks. He called on Israel to comply with the agreement on principles in letter and spirit and not to revert to the method of the pre-Oslo talks. He emphasized that in the agreement

with the Israelis, the Palestinians seek to gain complete independence and control over the territories from which the Israelis are supposed to withdraw—that is, the whole Gaza Strip, the Jericho area, and the crossing points and bridges.

On traffic and travel between the Palestinian and Israeli areas after the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho, Ra'fat said that the traffic will be under the full supervision of the Palestinian national authority and not under the Israeli occupation authority. He noted that the Palestinian authorities are fully capable of doing these tasks.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Boycott Meetings 'Postponed Indefinitely'

JN2110190493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (SANA)—A SANA correspondent in Cairo has learned from sources at the General Secretariat of the Arab League that the meetings of the Arab Bureau for Boycotting Israel, which were scheduled to be held in Damascus on 24 October, have been postponed indefinitely.

Arab League Issues Statement Marking UN Anniversary

NC2310170093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1659 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat has stressed the importance of the role that the United Nations must play in advancing the efforts to achieve a durable, just, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This peace should be based on the implementation of Security Council resolutions in line with international law that will lead to a full Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's hopes for establishing an independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

In a statement issued today marking the 48th anniversary of the world organization, the General Secretariat said the League's belief in the UN charter comes from its commitment to the charter's noble goals and values and has been the driving force behind its continuous readiness as a regional organization to enhance and support the UN role in all fields, particularly in upholding world peace and security and human rights.

The statement added that as they celebrate today the countries of the world hope to achieve a better future for all mankind and build an international community more committed to the principles and provisions of international law than the community was before World War II.

The statement noted that, if the Cold War and bipolarity policies that dominated the world after World War II delayed the accomplishment of many of these aspirations and hopes, the United Nations still managed to make numerous achievements in its support for the causes of liberation and human rights worldwide.

The statement asked the United Nations to develop a new concept of its tasks in the future that will be compatible with the changes and developments in the world represented by the end of the Cold War and by efforts to establish a new world order.

The statement emphasized that the nations of the world hope that the UN role will be based on respect for the charter's provisions and principles, defense of all countries' rights, territorial integrity, respect for commitments made in treaties, defense of man's basic rights and dignity, and the establishment of a world in which justice, peace, and stability prevail and attempts for hegemony and occupation end forever.

Palestinian Affairs

Two Israeli Soldiers Kidnapped, Murdered in Gaza

Hamas Claims Responsibility

JN2410085693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] In a statement distributed in Khan Yunus, in occupied Gaza, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has claimed responsibility for kidnapping and killing two Israeli soldiers. Hamas also noted that it is holding both soldiers' weapons and identification papers.

An Israeli Army spokesman said that investigations have begun to determine whether or not this is true.

Israel still refuses to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the founder of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, who is serving a life sentence, despite its announcement that there are some Hamas members among the 600 detainees due to be released tomorrow. It is known that Yasir 'Arafat has asked the Israelis more than once to release Shaykh Yasin.

'Abd-al-Shafi Comments on Attack

TA2410195993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] In the wake of the terror attack in Gaza in which two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were murdered, members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks say there is a long and arduous road ahead before real peace is attained between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the delegation, said neither side should wait for rapid and magic solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports on reaction from the Palestinian side:

The heads of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks heard about the terrorist attack in the Gaza Strip early

this morning, but it is hard to say that they were overly surprised about the ongoing wave of terrorist attacks in the Gaza Strip. Commenting on today's attack, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said a long and arduous road lies ahead before the Israelis and the Palestinians attain real peace. Moreover, the attack in Gaza shows that the way to attaining real peace is fraught with problems. Neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians should expect magic solutions. The problems will not be solved soon, he said.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said there were still problems in the field. He noted that there were no magic solutions, but that the peace process must be pursued.

Further on 'Abd-al-Shafi Comments

JN2410142093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral Palestinian-Israeli talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi in Jerusalem on 24 October, carried within the "With the Midday Events" program; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The meeting of a number of Palestinian delegation members, headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi at the National Hotel in East Jerusalem this morning was held within the framework of meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Investments Conference which will be held next spring.

After the meeting, we spoke with Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi about the latest political and security developments in the territories in light of the peace process. Regarding the activities of the Hamas Movement and to what extent they affect the peace process, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said:

"We are in a transitional stage. Our objective is to achieve an independent Palestinian state. This is a stage in which talks are taking place about this subject. Perhaps this harms the prevailing atmosphere, but frankly I cannot object to this as far as Hamas is concerned. Hamas has a certain strategy. It carries out this action, and I believe this action is in line with its strategy. What I say is that this action harms the atmosphere that we seek to prevail, but Israel does not help—now through the statements of the Israeli leaders—in securing a good atmosphere. Israel is placing restrictions on the return of refugees. It procrastinates on releasing political detainees. It daily declares that the status of Jerusalem has been finalized. Though this subject is on the agenda, everyday we hear statements that this subject has been finalized, and no one should think that Jerusalem would be a subject for negotiations. Israel says that no independent Palestinian state should be set up. All these statements also harm the atmosphere."

On the political assassinations that took place in Gaza recently, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said:

"I denounce political assassinations. I denounce assassinations, especially political assassinations. I say to the Palestinians that killing will not help us to realize our objectives."

"I do not any have information at all. I cannot say anything about who is responsible and what the motives are. I don't know anything about this."

Regarding the idea of deploying the Palestinian national guard in the Gaza Strip following the recent political assassinations with the aim of maintaining security for the population and leaders, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said:

"Personally, I don't need protection and have never needed it. I don't see any reason for anyone to threaten me. I believe that we need, as was agreed, Palestinian police to maintain security and order."

DFLP Forces Carry Out 'Death Sentence' in Gaza

JN2210205393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] We have learned, through a telephone call from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], that the al-Najm al-Ahmar [Red Star] forces, affiliated with the DFLP in the Gaza Strip, today carried out the death sentence against Salim 'Adil Salih on charges of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities.

Claim Attack on Israeli Patrol

JN2410124393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] The Red Star forces affiliated with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has claimed responsibility for a grenade attack against an Israeli patrol in Nabulus yesterday evening. The Red Star forces command warned the Israeli occupation authorities against implementing a life sentence against one of its leaders, 'Ali Muhammad al-Faqih, who was charged with killing four collaborators.

Assassination of al-Saftawi Draws Reaction, Response

'Arafat Urges 'Continuation of Struggle'

LD2410183093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] In a statement relayed over the telephone yesterday—during the commemoration ceremony of the Fatah official, brother As'ad al-Saftawi, that was held in the Gaza Strip—the brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] stressed the continuation of the struggle until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over Jerusalem's walls.

The brother president Abu-'Ammar said that the bats of darkness which try to disturb the march of the Palestinian people will not escape the punishment of the

Palestinian people, that of Fatah, the Palestinian revolution, and that of the brave strugglers in our Arab and Islamic nation.

Brother Abu-'Ammar added: We have to be vigilant and pay attention to these bats who are manipulated by the enemy and the enemies of the Palestinian people.

He concluded: Nobody can stop the march of history whatever the conspiracies he plans.

Fatah Declares State of Alert

TA2210201493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The Fatah organization in the Gaza Strip today published a leaflet placing all its members on a state of highest alert. The leaflet stated that following the murder of As'ad al-Saftawi, the security of Fatah members in the Gaza Strip must be carefully guarded.

Residents of the Gaza Strip told our correspondent Moti Amir that Fatah officials are investigating the circumstances of the murder and have already notified Fatah headquarters in Tunis of several important details. The identity of the murderers, however, remains unknown.

Delegate Denies Involvement

TA2210191693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Muhammad Dahlan, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, has said that the responsible PLO officials are studying the best ways for solving the security problem in the Gaza Strip in the wake of As'ad al-Saftawi's assassination there yesterday. Mr. Dahlan told our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid that a decision on the deployment of Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip will be issued within the next 48 hours. This step seeks to provide the Strip's residents with a sense of security following the acts of assassinations.

Our correspondent notes that 3,000 Gaza Strip residents were recently incorporated into the Palestinian police force in the Strip and will be deployed in its refugee camps and towns.

In an interview with our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem, Mr. Dahlan said that a Fatah delegation from the Gaza Strip that is currently in Tunis and includes Sami Abu-Samahdanah, Ihab al-Ashqar, and Dhiyab al-Lawh will leave as soon as possible for the Strip to carry out the security arrangements during the transitional period. Dahlan denied reports that he and Sami Abu-Samahdanah were involved in these political assassinations. He said that those acts were undertaken to sow discord among the Palestinian people. Dahlan stressed that the committee of inquiry set up by 'Arafat to investigate Abu-Sha'ban's assassination is still continuing its work.

Palestinians Seen Facing 'Arduous Test'

LD2510220793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Brothers, very disturbing happenings have been taking place as we are entering a very difficult and extremely crucial and critical stage. The Palestinian people have given a great deal. The Palestinians are at the top the list of nations which have paid so dear a price since World War II. This price has been paid on occupied soil, in exile, along the border of the homeland, and throughout the years of exile, emigration, occupation, and in the diaspora.

Now we are face to face with tragic events: shootings here and assassinations there, playing with dangerous fire on the soil of a homeland full of explosives, mines, and sleepless nights in the face of challenges that turn the peace process and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement into a gateway of hope or suicide. Frankly, we Palestinians are going through an arduous test which we are facing for the first time, that is, whether we deserve independence or not. No one can ever say that what the PLO signed in Washington was independence, but merely the beginning, and independence might or might not come. The question concerns only ourselves and no one else. No one can blame others for its failure if it does fail.

Frankly, the start is not encouraging, and it does not provide a horizon. This is the fifth, sixth, or tenth time when the bullet of treachery has stifled another symbol of our people's struggle and steadfastness. There is no excuse for us. Nor can we say that the masked gunmen who murdered al-Saftawi were from among the Israeli fanatics. We will not accuse the Israeli extremists or others who refused to sign the agreement and who refuse to let us live in security and tranquility.

We have no excuse. If the Israelis killed him then this is also our fault. At the recent countdown stage, conspiracies have been filtering through and the hand of treachery has been reaching out.

The enemy, while it begins to evacuate the land, strikes the roots of what fans discord, fratricide, and hatred in order to reoccupy the land. The enemy does not have to use the economy, the security, or resort to bloodshed in order to find an excuse for continuing its occupation of the land. Those who inhabit the land are themselves killing each other.

We have to talk frankly because we must not repeat the disunity of previous liberation movements in many regions of the world, which reached a point of genocide and account-score killing. We are not like them. We are in a different situation. Occupation still continues, even if we have recovered Gaza and Jericho. We still have some effort to make and struggle to wage in confronting and expelling the occupation from all the areas which have been occupied since 1967 and from other areas, in implementation of the UNSC [U.N. Security Council] resolution—the partition resolution.

We must not fight one another, even when enjoying full independence. We must not allow the Israeli [to get us to fight one another, he who lies in wait and who masks his face before he starts killing us in our name or plays us against one another. To avoid this requires the greatest degree of prudence and national and popular unity, vigilance, and weariness, which bring all of us together whatever our leanings, affiliations, or tendencies.

There is something that really gives rise to concern and cuts us from inside, especially now as the world is placing a wager on us. We, however, are banking on our people because it possesses all the abilities of creativity, superiority, and living. And this opens wide the road in front of it to independence.

Should we be saying more? Perhaps we will in the future. However, Palestinians—every Palestinian woman and every Palestinian man—should be aware of the fact that the eyes of the world are focused on us with affection. The Palestinian tragedy has been weighing heavy on the conscience of the world. It expects from the believers, who engaged in the armed struggle in rare valor, from the child who hurt the occupiers with his catapult and stone throwing, and who destroyed the Zionist dream for the Euphrates and the Nile and also entire Palestine, this world expects everyone of us to begin construction worthy of the Palestinian aspirations for which we gave our blood, our knowledge, our sacrifices, and our sleepless nights. We must not forget Palestinian generations.

Was it not a miracle that most of those who fought for the homeland never saw the homeland or knew it? Let us then be what we are. Let us hold on to all the knowledge, experience, and the offerwhile [as heard] we have, and make independence a fair price that has been paid for by the lives of the martyrs—the lives of the blessed martyrs of our people.

Fatah Officials Said Under House Arrest in Gaza

NC2210125792 Paris AFP in English 2204 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Tunis, Oct 22 (AFP)—A number of senior officials from Fatah, the PLO's main faction, were placed house arrest here this week amid an inquiry into the murder of a top Palestinian in the Gaza Strip, according to informed sources here.

The sources told AFP Thursday [21 October] that nine Fatah officials from the Gaza Strip were put under house arrest on Sunday after being summoned for talks with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the execution of a lawyer, Muhammad Abu-Sha'ban, an 'Arafat aide and leading moderate.

Abu-Sha'ban was gunned down on the Gaza Strip on September 21.

Two officials were still being held at the end of the week, the sources said.

Four of the nine refused to go to the meeting with 'Arafat on Sunday and were hauled in by PLO security guards, the sources said.

They added that the meeting, which centred on Abu-Sha'ban's murder, lasted several hours and was very animated. The nine, seven men and two women, were placed under house arrest by the organisation immediately afterwards.

Four were released on Monday after an urgent intervention by Abu-'Ali Shahin, a respected Palestine Liberation Organisation veteran, and two more were set free on Tuesday, the sources added.

Two remained confined to their houses on Thursday evening, while information about the last official was not forthcoming.

Shahin denied the allegations when questioned by AFP, saying an 11-strong delegation from Gaza had been in Tunis for two weeks to discuss implementation of the September 13 autonomy deal signed with Israel.

Another senior PLO official on the Gaza Strip, 'Atef al-Saftawi, a close friend of 'Arafat's, was gunned down on Thursday.

The PLO has notably refrained from accusing anyone of carrying out either of the killings.

Israeli Health Minister Haim Ramon called on Friday for "cooperation" between Israel and the PLO in the aftermath of al-Saftawi's murder.

"The current period of transition before the implementation of autonomy is difficult, and this is why we must embark on cooperation with the Palestinians in order to stop enemies of peace from pursuing their terrorist activities," he said.

Thousands were expected to attend al-Saftawi's funeral on Friday.

'Arafat Delivers Speech, Comments on Peace in Paris

Addresses UNESCO Council

LD2710170992 Ramallah Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 92

[Text] of speech delivered by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to the UNESCO Executive Council in Paris on 21 October—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] President of the Executive Council Madame Bernard-Meunier, Chairman of the General Conference Mr Ogit, Director General of UNESCO Federico Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, respectable permanent delegates, members of the Executive Council, and dear guests, greetings. [passage omitted]

Here and at this gathering, I renew our complete commitment to all the charters, laws and international codes both written and those agreed between the international parties and the UN organization. It is an occasion at which I confirm our commitment to human rights which we regard as a sacred question. It was embodied by the international human rights declaration in 1948, the international treaty concerning economic, social and cultural rights , the UNESCO agreement on combating discrimination in education in 1960, the Fourth Geneva Convention in 1949, and the rights of the child declaration in 1959. [passage omitted]

Sisters and brothers, you were aware of the fact that following the signing of the Declaration of Principles and the mutual recognition between the PLO and the Israeli Government, we are at the threshold of entering a new and crucial stage. It is the stage of construction and building of frameworks, foundations, and building of our economy and our national, social, educational and scientific institutions. At this stage we are in need of and looking forward to the support of all the friends and free men in the world and the peace, freedom and justice loving forces and international institutions and particularly the UN organization and its specialized agencies to guarantee this agreement and ensure its success and to strengthen its foundations being the first step along the march of peace which we have begun for establishing a just and lasting peace in the area. This peace which guarantees for all the peoples and states of the area their rights, their security and stability. It guarantees for our Palestinian people the end of Israeli occupation of their soil and sacred shrines and it guarantees the return and the practice of its national and political rights to freedom and independence, sovereignty and to progress, development and prosperity.

Peace, ladies and gentlemen, is not only an agreement concluded between the two sides or a treaty signed. Peace is the right of people when they go to bed after a hard day's work and expect an even more secure day to follow. It is the right of peoples to exercise their normal, customary and human activity.

If peace in our area is always an international concern in our area in as much as it is a Palestinian, Arab and Israeli concern. I say today that strengthening the peace process and making it succeed are the task of the entire international community.

If the plane of peace has taken off—and indeed it did take off when the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was signed—and if, subsequently, it requires nothing except to rise high and proceed on its correct and safe path toward its designated destination, we have to free ourselves for a few moments from the captivity of the situation, with all its excitement and brilliance, to think about how to rise to the level of the challenges brought about by the option of peace.

Respectable ladies and gentlemen, Palestine is being resurrected from the ruins of wars and historical injustice. We are well aware of the enormity of the challenges awaiting us. The enormity of our challenges are exactly the same as that of our hopes and dreams. [passage omitted]

Palestine, the holy land and the birth place of heavenly messages, the homeland of prophets and holy men, the lantern of man's ideas, aspirations and prayers toward his creator and the land of forgiveness, amity and peace, remained over the ages a melting pot in which all human civilizations, philosophies and perceptions of life and death interacted. This holy land has for long suffered from the misfortunes of wars, conflicts, injustice, occupation and displacement. The time has come for security and reassurance to return [to Palestine], and for its sons to live in harmony, peace, understanding and amity to contribute together to the progress and advancement of human civilization and to enrich its heritage and message.

We are looking forward to the important role that will be played by UNESCO in the new phase of reconstruction and building, in the sphere of safeguarding and maintaining the holy places in Holy Jerusalem and in the rest of the Palestinian territories and in protecting and maintaining the historical places in our country which are an inseparable part of world heritage and human civilization. We also look forward to UNESCO's effective role in the sphere of educational, technical, vocational, cultural programs, in the training of cadres, and in helping universities, educational institutes and schools in all fields.

I propose to your respectable General Council resolutions and recommendations for cooperation and joint action at the next stage on the following bases:

(1) Intensifying action to preserve and protect holy places, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim, particularly in holy Jerusalem, foremost among them the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque, the Mosque of the Rock, the Holy Sepulchre, the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, Christ's Church in Bethlehem, the Holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, and many many such holy places, according to a fixed timetable and as soon as possible.

(2) To intensify the activities aimed at protecting and maintaining historical sites in the holy land some of which like Jericho are considered to be among the oldest towns known in the world's history.

(3) To intensify the activities which are aimed at gathering, maintaining, and protecting the cultural, urban, and intellectual heritage such as manuscripts, books and important historical libraries.

(4) It is of great importance that I draw the attention of your esteemed assembly to the need for setting up a national Palestinian museum including the eras and the historic and modern achievements of our people also a special section for modern arts. We need your assistance in this connection.

(5) An increase in the aid needed within the sphere of the UNESCO specializations, to our educational, and cultural institutions to safeguard Palestinian culture and Palestinian self identity.

(6) Increasing the scholarships for science, technology, and culture which are awarded by you to our people including training and graduation of the cadres.

(7) In light of the new developments and the opening of the peace doors which herald the glad tidings of removing the consequences of the long years of conflict and the obstacles in the way of schools, universities and cultural institutions, I call for stepping up the efforts and continuing these efforts until these obstacles have been removed.

(8) While I value this fruitful and creative cooperation between the UNESCO and UNRWA, I call for continuing their joint cooperation and for increasing the potentials which are marked for this purpose. The new stage requires this arrangement and the increase in cooperation.

Your Excellency the esteemed director, ladies and gentlemen, we are all called on to make the peace process a success and to strengthen it in our area. This is both a great challenge and a greater responsibility which needs more continuous efforts in this direction.

Almighty God, you are peace, and peace comes from you. We look to thee for blessing. Glory be to God in heaven and peace on earth and happiness to people. I wish you success in your noble tasks.

Details Post-Accord Goals

LD2210193993 Paris Radio France International in French 1800 GMT 22 Oct 93

["Exclusive statement" by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to Radio France correspondent Dominique Rocle, in English with superimposed French translation, in Paris, date not given—recorded]

[Text] It is important to continue. What we have signed with Israel is a declaration of principles, which provides, first of all, for a complete withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. At the same time, we will set up an interim Palestinian authority of self-government in the remainder of the territory. Not later than the beginning of the third year of autonomy, we will have to negotiate the final status of the territories with a view to establishing an independent state. We also wish to establish a confederal relationship with Jordan.

Moreover, we are hoping to obtain the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the founder of Hamas. Yitzhaq Rabin has released my brother Salim Sikhay, the longest-serving Palestinian prisoner. Rabin has also promised to release 2,000 of our prisoners within a week. This is, I hope, only the first step toward the release of the other prisoners and the return of the deportees.

Expresses Gratitude for Support

LD2310182893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpts] In a speech he gave on the occasion of the dinner hosted by [French] Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] expressed his gratitude for the existence of friends who listen to us whenever we come to them. He said: All eyes are now on France [to see it] complete its outstanding role in the search for peace. The brother president said that he hoped it [peace] will be comprehensive and will extend to include other Arab countries.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar added that our people are aspiring to the establishment of a genuine state that protects democracy. He emphasized the difficulties facing the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. [passage omitted]

He [Juppe] added: There are still basic issues that must be solved, including the question of Jerusalem. He stressed that France had special obligations regarding this.

Al-Husayni Discusses 'Arafat's Paris Visit

NC2510093593 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 23 Oct 93 p 10

[Report on an interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation's steering committee, by AL-SAFIR correspondent Sami Kulayb in Paris; date not given]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, has declared that when it comes to solving the Palestinian refugee issue, priority will be given to the refugees in Lebanon. He announced that "the Lebanese lesson" must be properly grasped to handle the current inter-Palestinian assassinations in the occupied territories.

Al-Husayni, who accompanied PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on his official visit to Paris, played down reports about a possible Israeli-Palestinian alliance and instead emphasized that the proposed axis must be formed by Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Al-Husayni said: "It was natural that 'Arafat should receive former Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, because both men were in Paris at the time." He pointed out, however, that dialogue is continuing between the PLO and the Lebanese authorities, including several meetings in Tunis.

Asked what the Palestinians sought by visiting France, al-Husayni said: "We want to get as much aid as possible for our infrastructure projects. With this aid we can mobilize all our resources, create new conditions in the occupied territories, and thus prevent a recurrence of regrettable incidents like the assassination of brother As'ad Saftawi and the earlier assassinations of two of our other activists. The French have expressed concern about these incidents but said they are willing to back us fully, politically and economically, to boost the peace

process. We believe France will intervene effectively with the EC to encourage the Community to take bigger strides to improve local Palestinian conditions now instead of waiting until the Palestinians assume power in Gaza and Jericho."

[Kulayb] What did 'Arafat mean, when, after meeting Mitterrand, he said the peace operation must be comprehensive and include the Syrian and Lebanese fronts? Has anything new happened in this connection or was he only voicing a hope?

[Al-Husayni] I cannot really give more details. During our meetings with the French officials, we pointed out the importance of progress on the Syrian-Lebanese negotiating track and of trying to understand the Syrian and Lebanese views. We agreed that to have real and comprehensive peace, we could not leave Syria and Lebanon out of the process. Any attempt to hinder progress on these two tracks will not serve the peace.

[Kulayb] You are saying that the Israelis are placing obstacles in the way. Can France pressure Israel to stop this?

[Al-Husayni] Doubtless, France can play a role. We know relations between France and Israel have been good for a long time. This can be used to improve things.

[Kulayb] The opponents of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement are betting that it will collapse soon, perhaps in six months. What guarantees do you have to prevent this from happening?

[Al-Husayni] First, I wish to tell the opponents that the agreement gives the Palestinians part of their demands. Our current circumstances, regional circumstances, and those governing the world order have made this agreement possible. The agreement will last as long as the current international order persists. Within this world order, I believe we have many opportunities, not only to ensure the success of the agreement, but to develop it into a better form. Remember: It is an agreement on principles. What we are trying to do is make it succeed and develop it into a better shape. We hope to find a place for ourselves in the new world.

[Kulayb] Current plans for the region seem to imply that an Israeli-Palestinian alliance will soon be established, particularly in the economic sphere... [ellipsis as published]

[Al-Husayni] We must distinguish between the transitional period and the final status that we seek. We must cooperate economically with Israel, because if we do not, this will hinder our own projects. We cannot let this happen. But we believe the basic axis to be established must be a Syrian-Lebanese-Jordanian-Palestinian axis. A look at the world today will convince us that the future belongs to regional cooperation. If we want to solve our problems and ease the problem of Israel being a modern Sparta, we must try to include Israel in the regional makeup. Israel must in return introduce particular changes in its laws, ending its current expansionist, racist ['unsuriyah] status. We need continuous, collective Arab action to achieve this.

[Kulayb] Why all this emphasis on the need for Arab coordination? Where are the principal gaps, and what are their effects?

[Al-Husayni] Better coordination is needed. Coordination must not be limited to a meeting 48 hours before going to Washington.

[Kulayb] But the problem does not lie with the Arabs as much as with Israel. What interest will Israel have in progress on the other tracks after it has secured an agreement with Jordan?

[Al-Husayni] I think concessions are not made, but taken. When Israel feels the opposite front is united, it will be forced to give more. So, real, serious Syrian-Jordanian-Egyptian-Lebanese coordination can change the situation.

[Kulayb] What use is there in returning to the bilateral negotiations in Washington for the Palestinian-Israeli track?

[Al-Husayni] We think the framework of the Washington negotiations must be maintained, in the sense that they should be comprehensive, provided real coordination takes place among ourselves. We would like to see these negotiations resume in Washington or anywhere else. Perhaps the form that was imposed on the Palestinians has led to an attempt by the delegations to spend time trying to prove their independence. The situation now has changed. There are four delegations that can coordinate and negotiate in a better way.

[Kulayb] We will now move on to the Lebanese issue. There is fear about resettling the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. How are you preparing to solve this problem?

[Al-Husayni] There should be no such fear. The Palestinians will not be resettled in Lebanon. As we have said, there are two solutions and one of them calls for consolidating the infrastructure in the state of Palestine and establishing effective institutions able to absorb those returning from abroad. They will be granted Palestinian passports. The Palestinian will then be free to decide whether to stay in the country he is working in, go elsewhere, or return to Palestine. The formula permits the Palestinians to reside and work abroad if they wish.

[Kulayb] This means the Palestinians will remain in Lebanon and work there and that what will change will be the form of residence only.

[Al-Husayni] Many Palestinians who live in Lebanon will return to the Palestinian state because we need them. We will be very much in need of technicians, workers, teachers, and doctors. The return will not be limited to the 1967 refugees, but will also include the 1948 refugees in particular.

[Kulayb] Why did Yasir 'Arafat receive former Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil?

[Al-Husayni] An old relationship has existed between the two since the PLO was in Lebanon. Despite the fighting in Lebanon, the dialogue did not stop. Such relations must continue. At no time is it wise to maintain a political boycott.

[Kulayb] But al-Jumayyil is opposed to Syria and does not agree with the Lebanese Government. So, did the meeting appear as an attempt by 'Arafat to exert pressure?

[Al-Husayni] 'Arafat is ready to receive any Lebanese diplomat or politician. Previously, such meetings were impossible. But many Lebanese figures have met the PLO in Tunis and the presence of al-Jumayyil in Paris made this meeting possible.

[Kulayb] On what level did the meetings with the Lebanese officials in Tunis take place, and when did they occur?

[Al-Husayni] When we meet Lebanese or Arab politicians, we discuss personal and general problems, particularly those concerning the resettlement of Palestinians.

[Kulayb] Some of the Israelis have begun discussing the possibility of Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon even before a Syrian withdrawal. Do you have any information about this, and can it happen?

[Al-Husayni] I see nothing embarrassing for Syria in this. Logically speaking, withdrawal should take place, because UN Security Council Resolution 425 is clear as far as Lebanon is concerned. But based on our experience with the Israelis, I think it will be difficult for such a thing to happen.

Negotiator on Taba Talks, Prisoner Release

JN2510115993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Interview with Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Taba, by Sa'id Mu'addi on 25 October, carried within the "With the Midday Events"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation in Taba, good afternoon.

['Asfur] You are welcome.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Hasan, the third round of negotiations will begin in Taba tomorrow. What are the topics on the agenda, and what subjects will be discussed?

['Asfur] As you said, we will begin the third round of talks on withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area tomorrow. As we decided during the first round, there is a tendency to abide by the agenda that was approved during that round. We will resume negotiations on Tuesday [26 October] morning on our concept of the Israeli withdrawal, its timetable, and how it will be carried out, and the concept of security for the two parties. The delegations will break up into subcommittees to discuss necessary details in order not to continue discussing general issues. We will also start discussing all issues relating to the transfer of authority in terms of the nature of this authority, the timetable of this process, and issues relating to all civilian aspects.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Hasan, the first batch of Palestinian detainees and prisoners will be freed today. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has decided not to release Hamas activists as a result of the killing of two soldiers yesterday. What is your comment on this?

['Asfur] The agreement reached by the committee for prisoners, detainees, and deportees calls for the release of a group of Palestinian prisoners as a first step toward the comprehensive and full release of brother prisoners and detainees in accordance with specifications that have been defined without any exception and without consideration of political affiliation. We hope that the Israelis will adhere to what has been agreed on, and that nothing in this agreement will be violated, otherwise, this will represent something that does not advance the peace process. Any violation of this agreement will obstruct the negotiations. We hope that the Israeli Government will abide by what we agreed on, and not behave on the basis of reactions because we will face many similar actions, and things should not be measured according to individual incidents. What we agreed on during the negotiations should be implemented without delay, otherwise, the entire process may face obstruction or delay, and this does not serve the peace process and will not realize security or stability. On the contrary, it may lead to more tension, more instability, and also may escalate the wave of violence. We hope that the Israeli Government will realize the meaning of adherence to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement concerning this subject and in accordance with the agreement concluded during the last round and the joint statement made on this issue.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation in Taba, thank you very much.

['Asfur] Thank you.

Source: 760 Detainees To Be Freed 24 Oct

NC2310141593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1331 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—The first batch of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons will be released tomorrow, Sunday, in accordance with an agreement recently reached by the Palestinian-Israeli Gaza-Jericho Committee in Taba.

An official source at the Palestinian media office in Cairo told MENA that a group of 760 detainees, mostly the sick, women, people under 18 and over 50, will be released tomorrow.

The source said that the remaining detainees will be released in batches according to certain criteria. The

source stressed that members of all Palestinian organizations, including the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which opposes the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, will be released.

At the outset of the latest round of Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings, the Israelis proposed that the release of the detainees begin only after signing an agreement on the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. However, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, rejected the proposal and stressed the need for a speedy release of the prisoners as agreed upon by the two sides in the Liaison Committee meetings.

The two sides reached an agreement on the release of the Palestinian detainees at the last moment of the latest Taba meeting.

The official source at the Palestinian media office in Cairo said that the Gaza-Jericho Committee had also agreed that all Palestinian deportees since 1967, estimated at 700,000, will return in stages.

It was also agreed, the source said, that all human rights violations, such as the demolition of houses and pursuit of Palestinians, will be halted.

The source said that the Palestinian side rejected the Israeli concept of security after the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

The source said Dr. Nabil Sha'th stressed that Article 14 of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, recently signed in Washington, provides for a total Israeli pullout of Gaza and Jericho and full transfer of security and political authority to the PLO. It also states that the Israeli forces must withdraw from the rest of the West Bank and Gaza to agreed upon security locations.

The source said this means Palestinian control of all land, water, and natural resources occupied by Israel.

The Palestinian source said that Dr. Sha'th told the Israelis that if the Israeli settlements are the reason for the clear contradiction in Israel's concept of withdrawal, then these settlements must not remain.

PLO Receives Invitations to Multilaterals

JN2310213693 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and PLO representative to Tunisia, has met with the Russian ambassador and charge d'affaires [words indistinct], in the presence of the Russian Embassy's political adviser.

During this meeting, brother Hakam Bal'awi received two invitations from the cosponsors of the peace process to the PLO to participate in [words indistinct] of the multilateral negotiating committees of the peace conference. These are an invitation to participate in the work of the [word indistinct] and regional work committee, which will be held in Moscow 3-4 November 1993, and an invitation to participate in the meeting of the economic and regional development committee, which will be held in Copenhagen in Denmark 8-9 [words indistinct] 1993.

'Ashrawi Declines Appointment as PLO Envoy

JN2510110293 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 25 Oct 93 p 8

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks refused to be appointed as the PLO ambassador in Washington.

In a statement to AL-AHALI, Dr. 'Ashrawi justified her rejection by saying that she is not prepared to be a PLO ambassador, which means that she would be a PLO office director in Washington.

She said: I will accept this post when an independent Palestinian state is established, in which case the PLO office will become an embassy of the state of Palestine.

Abu-'Ayyash on Palestinian Radio, TV Station

JN2310204193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Interview with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, "head of the Commission of the Palestinian Television and Radio project," by Salim Badawi in Paris; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Badawi] Mr. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Commission of the Palestinian Television and Radio, in this short interview on the project of establishing Palestinian television and radio stations, let us begin with the first question: Mr. Abu-'Ayyash, we believe that, for the first time, there will be an experiment to establish a Palestinian radio and television. How do you view this experiment?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I hope that this experiment will be unique and different from the other experiments that other Middle Eastern areas have witnessed in that it will stand out in terms of its output and performance. I believe that the Palestinians have listened a lot to others. The time has come for them to say something and to have others listen to them.

[Badawi] In what way will the radio and television will be unique? Will there be freedom of expression? How will the future Palestinian radio and television be different from the other radios in the region?

[Abu-'Ayyash] What I meant is that freedom of expression will be guaranteed for all because they will be the radio and television stations of the Palestinian people who have the right to say what they want within the framework of the democratic constants and bases that distinguish our people. In addition to this, a small station when its starts operations should be different in terms of the programs that it transmits and that depend

on educational bases and quick reporting. From this premise, it could perhaps compete with the televisions and radios in the region.

[Badawi] Your are now in France. Recently, an agreement was signed with the French Channel 2. What is the content of this agreement?

[Abu-'Ayyash] Yes, following extensive efforts, the PLO Information Department signed this agreement on cooperation with the French Government and Antenne 2 [preceding word in French] to establish a radio and television station in Palestine. The provisions of this agreement consist of cultural exchanges and providing the Palestinians with the equipment. This will take place in a short period of time, perhaps before the end of this year.

[Badawi] What about the technical aspects, the technicians? Are there training programs for them?

[Abu-'Ayyash] The French and the Europeans, in general, have said there is a possibility for them to train Palestinian radio and television cadres in all fields, especially in the engineering field. We are in the process of making arrangements to send people for this purpose. We started to register the names of some of the brothers who wish to go abroad to seek knowledge in these fields.

[Badawi] The French Government donated French Fr 18 million for the establishment of the Palestinian television and radio. What about this?

[Abu-'Ayyash] Yes, this is what was stipulated in the agreement. In the first stage, the French will donate Fr 18 million worth of equipment that will be set up in Palestine. After this, the discussion will take place on other stages in the future to complete two fully-equipped stations.

[Badawi] When can we expect transmission to begin in the Palestinian radio and television?

[Abu-'Ayyash] We hope we will be able to do this following the return of the Palestinian leadership to the occupied territories early next year. We will start with a short experimental period. We hope this can take place on 1 January. This date has been set to complete the work. However, if there is any delay, it will not be our fault.

[Badawi] What about the budget for operating the project. Who will finance the establishment of this project?

[Abu-'Ayyash] We do not have any budget for operating the project. However, the PLO and the commission have started contacting Arab and European officials to secure the operation of this station. We hope to succeed in this. We still are at the beginning.

[Badawi] Mr. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, thank you.

Algeria

Three French Citizens Kidnapped by Armed Group

LD2410125393 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1200 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The news reached us half an hour ago that three French citizens were kidnapped in Algiers this morning. They work with the French Consulate in the Algerian capital. Paris has reacted: France condemns this intolerable act, and demands that they be set free. It expects the Algerian authorities—I quote—to do their utmost to have these French citizens freed. Antoine Cormery has just called Hassan Zenati, the AFP correspondent in Algiers:

[Zenati] Three French citizens working with the French Consulate in Algiers were kidnapped at 0730 on Sunday morning near their home. They are Mr. and Mrs. (Thevenot) and (Alain Frechier). They were abducted by an armed group of three men on a boulevard in the center of the capital as they were leaving home to go to work. A policeman on duty not far from the building was killed during the kidnapping, according to eyewitnesses. The kidnapping of the three French citizens has not been confirmed officially yet, nor had anyone claimed responsibility for it by midday on Sunday.

This is the second time that French citizens have been kidnapped in Algeria since the beginning of the clashes between Islamic armed groups and security forces in Februray 1992. Indeed, on 21 September, (Francois Barthelet), aged 32, and (Emmanuel Didion), aged 25, were kidnapped in Tlelac, where they were working for a French company building a high-voltage line. They were found with their throats slit in Tenira, near Sidi-Bel-Abbes, dozens of kilometers away from the place where they had been kidnapped. [passage omitted]

Minister Denounces Kidnapping

LD2410201593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] An APS cable attributed to authorized sources reported that three French citizens working at the French consulate in Algeria were kidnapped this morning near their residences.

They are Mr. and Mrs. Thevenot and Mr. Alain Frechier, who were on their way to their work place, when they were attacked by an armed group and taken by force to an unknown place.

The stance of the Algerian Government toward the kidnapping of the three French citizens is described in this statement given to television by Interior Minister Salim Saadi.

[Begin Saadi recording] After assaulting Algerian citizens and public and private property, terrorism in the past few weeks has started to target the foreign community, which is here to cooperate with our country.

Following the assassination of seven foreigners of various nationalities, the terrorists kidnapped French citizens who work at the French Consulate.

The Algerian Government strongly condemns and denounces these despicable actions that violate the traditions of hospitality for which our country and people are well-known.

No cause can ever (justify) such appalling crimes, which contradict the traditions and values of our people.

Those who planned and executed these despicable actions, which befit the Mafia, are wrong if they think that they will influence the course of implementing the program drawn up by the government in order to get over the political, economic, and social crisis.

The government warns the kidnappers against harming the foreign nationals who were kidnapped. The government intends to dedicate all its means to finding those who executed the kidnapping, and for preserving and protecting the lives of the three French citizens, as it has done recently for liberating two other foreign nationals. [end recording]

[Announcer] The two foreign nationals to whom Interior Minister Salim Saadi was referring were Japanese nationals.

The two Japanese nationals were passing near (Yacheta Castle) in Blida Province yesterday when they were kidnapped. A security man was there and was able to liberate the two hostages.

FIS Official Calls for Release

LD2410153493 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1500 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] (Anouar Adam), one of the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad, has called for the release of the three French citizens kidnapped in Algiers, if they are not members of the intelligence service. He has said that the leadership of the Islamic movement has given no guidelines against foreigners in Algeria. [passage omitted]

Minister Urges 'Full Participation' in Talks

LD2410150693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] The People's National Army today called on all patriotic and progressive forces to find a collective solution to the crisis before the end of the year.

In a statement to APS, National Defense Minister Lamine Zeroual called on forces of various political affiliations to support the dialogue with their full participation in order to find a collective solution to the crisis before the end of the year and reinstate concord and understanding among Algerians.

The solution, as outlined in the statement, must be in accordance with the high ideals of the November revolution, namely a just republican and democratic state in which pluralism prevails, ruled by a constitution that guarantees national sovereignty, the country's unity, fundamental rights, and common liberties in the framework of respect for the principles of peace that the Algerian people have lived with for centuries. He added: In a word, a state of law and progress in which all the constituent groups of the Algerian people will be recognized.

Army Determined To Stay Neutral

LD2410170393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In a statement to APS today, the national defense minister said that the military establishment was determined to remain neutral, and this meant that the National People's Army could not remain unconcerned about what is decisive in the country's fate.

Mr. Lamine Zeroual said also that the fight against terrorism was taking place within the framework of the law, and that this did not only concern the security forces and the units of the National People's Army, but all the national forces of the country that reject the use of violence as a means to reach power.

Kafi, Media Debate Dialogue Committee Powers

LD2310202993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] A meeting was held today at the Presidency between Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council, and journalists from the various public and private media. Ali Kafi expressed his condolences to the media and denounced the crimes being perpetrated against Algeria's sons in various places.

A lengthy debate was held between the Higher State Council chairman and the journalists on the general situation in the country. The debate mainly focused on the role and powers of the National Committee for Dialogue and on the outcome of the Higher State Council contacts with some parties and prominent figures on how to manage the transition period.

Media Urged To Play Role

LD2310203293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Abdelkader Bensalah, rapporteur of the National Dialogue Committee, today held an introductory meeting with representatives of the national press accredited to the committee at the National Consultative Council headquarters.

At the meeting attended by journalists representing the public and independent [mustaqillah] press, Bensalah said that the committee favored a meeting with the national press in view of the importance of the role that could be played by the media in widening the scope of debate in the framework of the national dialogue, providing the opportunity for the expression of views, and making it possible for the citizens' views about this issue to be heard. He stressed that the committee was eager to hear all the people and that that was the task of the press.

Sources close to the committee stressed that it made its first official contacts last Thursday [21 October] with a number of political parties, and that those contacts would continue this week to set a schedule for meetings. The source [singular as heard] stressed that the committee welcomed any contribution offered to it and, in that context, it would not exclude anyone from the dialogue and that it would try to involve all those who believe in dialogue as a means to treat the political problem facing the country. [passage omitted]

FIS Spokesman Says Madani 'Seriously Ill'

LD2210162793 Paris Radio France International in French 0716 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Studio interview with Rabah Kebir, spokesman and head of executive group in exile of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, with unidentified announcer—live]

[Text] [Announcer] The FIS has been dissolved and banned since 1991, but it is still active in Algeria. The situation seems more like a civil war than anything else with its daily killings, attacks, and reprisals. Tension is so high that foreigners are also becoming targets. Five of them have been killed since the end of September. Despite all this, there is talk about dialogue in Algiers, where the preparations for a national conference are under way. It is in this context that we have heard about the hospitalization of Abassi Madani, the FIS leader, who suffered a heart attack. Mr. Kebir, do you have any news about Mr. Madani?

[Kebir] According to the latest news, he is seriously ill. Our reliable sources say he got better in the last couple of days but the authorities brought in an unknown medical team to carry out a heart operation on him.

[Announcer] How would the FIS react if Abassi Madani dies?

[Kebir] I think the Algerian people will react, not only the FIS. Abassi Madani is a great man. He is a doctor [in education]. He is the man the Algerian people have chosen. His death would create a big problem for everybody, including the regime.

[Announcer] Who would replace Mr. Madani?

[Kebir] I hope Mr. Madani would replace Mr. Madani. I hope he will get better soon.

[Announcer] Who is number two? Is it Mr. Ali Belhadj?

[Kebir] Well, within the FIS, yes.

[Announcer] And are you the number two abroad?

[Kebir] I would not like to answer this kind of question.

[Announcer] What do you say about the killing and assassination of foreigners and do you condemn them?

[Kebir] It is not the policy of the FIS to kill foreigners, but it is very very difficult to control popular actions. The people have chosen their leaders in free elections, chosen the kind of society they would like, while many Western countries chose to side with the dictatorship against the Algerian people, who chose their party and leaders in free elections. So, in this case, some people have obviously taken up a position that is not at all easy to control.

[Announcer] So you are against those who attack foreigners, but you do not rule out the possibility that elements of the FIS are responsible for their death?

[Kebir] Western countries are in principle free and democratic countries. They take the side of the people like in Nigeria against Babangida, in Haiti and everywhere. Western countries choose democracy and people's choices wherever a dictatorial regime cancels elections and represses people except in Algeria. Why? Why this double standard?

[Announcer] How far will the massacre of politicians, intellectuals go? All these people are falling daily to the bullets of the FIS.

[Kebir] After the elections of 26 December [1991], many so-called intellectuals asked the military regime to intervene against the people, to repress the people. Normally an intellectual must side with the people.

[Announcer] The last journalist to be assassinated spoke in favor of national dialogue.

[Kebir] I am not speaking of specific cases, of the latest or the first killing. I am speaking in general terms. On the other hand, there are certainly a number of intellectuals who have been killed by the regime. Without doubt.

[Announcer] Who are those whom you believe to have been murdered by the authorities?

[Kebir] I would give the example of Merbah, for example.

[Announcer] Mr. Kasdi Merbah, the former prime minister?

[Kebir] Yes, because the Islamists had no interest in killing him.

[Announcer] In what way can murdering people be a worthwile strategy for the FIS?

[Kebir] I think that the FIS does not have a strategy of killing people. From the beginning, the FIS adopted the strategy of letting the people, the whole people, choose their leaders freely. The regime, however, declared war on the people. It is quite incredible. So a distinction must be made between the FIS's policy, and what is going on in Algeria. What is going on in Algeria is absolutely out of control.

[Announcer] So would you be heard if tomorrow you were to order an end to the bloodbath?

[Kebir] I think that it is not quite so easy. There are the mudjahidine groups, each group has its emir, its leader. These leaders are mature people. I think, they are up to the task. If there are concrete developments, if there is a real return to popular choice, then I think that people will accept this.

[Announcer] So has the time come for dialogue with the authorities? The National Commission for Dialogue has let it be known that no one will be excluded from the discussions. Will you respond to this appeal?

[Kebir] If the authorities choose this solution, then we must go directly to the representatives of the people, Abassi Madani, Ali Belhadj, who are in prison. In this case, then we could speak not of dialogue but negotiations to prevent the country from sliding further into anarchy.

[Announcer] So you are appealing for negotiations. What must be done to negotiate with you?

[Kebir] I think that these negotiations will take place with the religious leaders [last word in Arabic: shuyukh] who will be capable of nominating capable men for this mission.

[Announcer] Have contacts already been made between you and some Algerian political parties?

[Kebir] For now, no. This is to say, in the current situation, Abassi Madani is in a critical state. What has provoked this tragedy for the Algerian people? The regime. Before he was tortured, and yet he had already been judged [sentence as heard]. He is not yet 60 years old. This is not normal. Who are we going to talk to?

[Announcer] But you do not rule out negotiations with the authorities?

[Kebir] It is like with France in the colonial period. When De Gaulle decided to talk with the FLN [National Liberation Front] to reach a certain position, then the FLN accepted. I think the situation is the same today.

[Announcer] Is there any outside mediation? I am thinking in particular of Saudi Arabia.

[Kebir] For now, there is nothing of the kind: no contacts with any parties, nor with any foreign governments. I think, however, that, if there are talks, then a third party will have to guarantee things.

[Announcer] In one of his speeches, Ali Belhadj said that democracy is the enemy of Islam. Do you still adhere to this declaration?

[Kebir] Ali Belhadj's declarations are theological. Which democracy are we talking about? If democracy means the

choice of the people, the free choice of the people, then Islam is with democracy. If democracy means the repression of the people, and if democratic countries choose to back the dictatorship, then I think that this declaration is valid.

[Announcer] Thank you, Rabah Kebir, for having spoken to RFI. I remind listeners that you are the overseas spokesman of the FIS, the banned Algerian Islamist movement.

[Kebir] I am now the head of the executive body of the FIS abroad.

Egypt

Mubarak Leaves For Washington 23 Oct

NC2310082293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for Washington this morning for a 4-day visit to the United States.

During the visit, Mubarak will hold important talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton and senior U.S. Administration and Congress officials to advance and revive the Middle East peace process and promote bilateral relations in all fields. The president will also discuss with U.S. Administration officials several current world issues, especially African issues.

President Mubarak will visit France at the end of his visit to the United States.

Arrives in Washington

NC2310204793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2003 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, 23 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak arrived at Andrews Air Force Base at 2155 Cairo time on a visit to the United States.

During the visit he will meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton and senior U.S. officials to discuss developments in the Middle East, regional and international issues of common interest, and bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States.

Mubarak on Ties with U.S.

NC2310120793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1017 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that his talks in Washington will focus on ways of promoting bilateral relations in various fields.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I, published today, President Mubarak said that he feels that the U.S. Administration is fully aware of all aspects of the excellent relations between the two countries. One of the goals of the visit, he added, is to reinforce this awareness in a way that will help Egypt implement its ambitious economic reform plan.

Describing Egyptian-U.S. relations as special and excellent, Mubarak said that his visit to the United States aims to bolster mutual understanding, noting that he will follow up several issues discussed in his visit to the United States last April.

The president said that there is a need for a more active and effective U.S. role in the Middle East peace process, particularly on the Syrian-Israeli track.

President Mubarak said that all those concerned with the peace process should actively support the Gaza-Jericho plan in order to create an appropriate mechanism for its implementation and strengthen the hand of Israeli and Palestinian moderates.

Egypt's tireless efforts to prevent the worsening of the Lockerbie crisis have been greeted with satisfaction by all the parties involved, Mubarak said. He added that he is still trying to find a just compromise to resolve the issue in accordance with international norms and without ignoring the legitimate needs and guarantees requested by any side.

Egypt's excellent international relations and credibility were instrumental in the writing off of over 50 percent of Egyptian foreign debts, the president said. He said that the interests, needs, and hopes of the average Egyptian inspire every policy he draws up and each measure he takes.

Democracy, the president said, is a fundamental and irreversible policy to which the country will remain committed regardless of excesses by any writers. There are no lingering doubts concerning democracy. We firmly believe that democracy is our lifeline, he stated.

President Mubarak said that all legitimate political trends are good for the country. Differences of opinion will not prevent those who are loyal to the country from finding common ground based on their commitment to the country's security and stability.

The president said that change for the sake of change has never been his motto. Change is governed by considerations of public interest. A change that does not serve the public interest would be unjustified, Mubarak said, even if it is designed to please some people or appease others.

The president said that he kept Dr. 'Atif Sidqi as prime minister because of his experience and the extraordinary work he has done on economic reforms. He pointed out that Dr. Sidqi's reform policies had caused a minimum of social and economic side-effects.

A fair and unprejudiced look at the achievements of the past 12 years should give us satisfaction. We all should think of what we can do to help our country attain its dreams and hopes, the president asserted.

President Mubarak denied any intention to amend the laws on the press or regarding the Journalists Association, describing any rumors to this effect as tendentious. What goes on inside their association is the concern of the journalists alone and the state is not party to it.

Musa on Meeting With Clinton

NC2210190993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that President Husni Mubarak will hold talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Francois Mitterrand during his tour, which begins tomorrow, Saturday [23 October], and includes the United States and France.

'Amr Musa said these talks will cover developments in the Middle East situation; ways to advance the peace efforts; and African issues, led by Somalia; in addition to bilateral relations between Egypt and both France and the United States.

The foreign minister noted that since the beginning of President Mubarak's third term, Mubarak's diplomatic activity has clearly concentrated on Arab coordination and preparations for foreign contacts to address the situation in the Middle East in general and the peace process, particularly the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and advancing the Syrian-Israeli track, on one hand, and the Lebanese-Israeli track, on the other.

'Amr Musa added that the contacts President Mubarak held with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin; President Mubarak's visit to Jeddah and meeting with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques; as well as Musa's visit yesterday, Thursday, to Jordan, pave the way for a general Arab understanding on how to cope with the existing challenges and the current developments in the course of the peace march. These contacts also pave the way for regional progress, which we need to address when evaluating circumstances in the region toward peace and away from hostility and clashes.

'Amr Musa said the peace process is following two courses. The first is to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and make sure this is done honestly. In other words, the proper circumstances should be created to develop this agreement so that we can negotiate over the final stage within the framework of enabling the Palestinian people to determine their own fate. Israel and the Palestinians should be made to feel that it is possible to exist side by side, that the security of both sides is guaranteed, and that the rights of both sides can be safeguarded. The foremost of these rights is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The second course is the Syrian-Lebanese track. He explained that recent contacts in Cairo fell within the framework of bolstering action on the Syrian-Lebanese track and that this will be the focal point of discussions between President Mubarak and President Clinton.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa explained that the Mubarak-Clinton talks will also center on African issues, especially the situations in Somalia, Liberia, Mozambique, and South Africa.

Stressing that national reconciliation is inevitable in Somalia, Musa noted certain facts about that country: First, the American forces are scheduled to withdraw no later than 31 March. Second, there are resolutions adopted by the Addis Ababa reconciliation conference last March. Third, Egypt, as the OAU chairman, is a leading player in African action. Fourth, the OAU delegated Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi to follow the situation in Somalia, and there must be coordination between Egypt, the OAU chairman, and Ethiopia, the country delegated to find a solution to the problem. Fifth, the roles of international legitimacy, represented by the United Nations, and African legitimacy need to be intermingled to promote the proposed reconciliation.

The foreign minister stressed the need for national reconciliation in Somalia to include all factions without exception. It is important to reach a solution in Somalia in the next six months, and this is what President Mubarak is working to achieve, he said.

Musa also stressed the importance of solutions based on international legitimacy to the problems in Liberia, Angola, and Mozambique. He also noted President Mubarak's interest in Africa's debt problem.

On the situation in Bosnia, the foreign minister said President Mubarak will discuss the problem with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

He stressed the need to find a solution that is based on international legitimacy and that is acceptable to all parties.

Musa said the third subject of Mubarak's talks in Washington will be bilateral relations.

President Mubarak's talks in Paris will focus on French-Egyptian relations, he said.

Musa Views Talks in Washington

NC2510080993 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, in Washington, by 'Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, today, carried within the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Musa] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister, everyone is anticipating with great interest the Egyptian-U.S. summit today, which is significant because of the important issues it will cover and because of its timing. Can you detail the meeting's significance?

[Musa] Its importance lies in the Egyptian and U.S. presidents meeting at this stage in the peace process, in the recent progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and in the efforts necessary to achieve progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli fronts. Discussions will focus on ways to boost the peace operation, properly implement the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, and hold elections throughout the West Bank and Gaza. Much work remains to be done. Certainly, difficulties will arise; many details must be hammered out. It is important that we should nurture this process and make sure it is completed by holding elections and establishing autonomy that includes the West Bank and Gaza. It is also important to promote peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in order to have simultaneous progress on all fronts. We are discussing a comprehensive peace here. The president will also raise issues pertaining to Africa, problems including the Somali crisis, the issue of Egyptian-U.S. ties, and general regional and international conditions.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister, you recently contacted several parties. President Mubarak met King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. What Egyptian position was formulated during these meetings to be presented during the Egyptian-U.S. summit?

[Musa] Inter-Arab contacts all serve to promote the peace process and inter-Arab solidarity and forge a collective Arab stance as far as this is possible on various issues. Egypt constantly undertakes this mission and in this way serves Arab interests abroad, such as during the upcoming meeting between President Mubarak and President Clinton.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister Musa, the economic aspect of the Egyptian-U.S. summit is no less important than the political aspect. How does the United States view Egypt's economic reform process, the first part of which has been successfully carried through? What do we want from the U.S. Administration now?

[Musa] Our economic reform endeavor has clearly started to bear fruit. The first stage has succeeded. Of course, the United States plays a role by extending aid. We believe our economic relationship with the United States involves components other than this aid, although aid must continue for now. Trade, for example, particularly the Egyptian export quota, must be encouraged. This will involve some discussion with the United States. Another issue is U.S. investment in Egypt. Many other economic issues will be discussed.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can we say that Egyptian-U.S. relations are proceeding along their normal track?

[Musa] Yes.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister Musa, thank you very much. You are always welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Musa] Thank you.

Commentary Pins 'Great Hopes' on Summit

NC2410171893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Razzaz: "The Important Issues Before the Mubarak-Clinton Summit Tomorrow"]

[Text] International political observers are following with great interest the second Egyptian-American summit after the first summit, which was held last April, yielded important results on issues in the Middle East and Africa. During the first summit, great strides were made on the Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace talks, and a solution was almost found to the inflamed situation in Somalia.

Therefore, international observers described the first Mubarak-Clinton summit last April as the summit of achievements to resolve complex issues. It was the first summit for the President of the United States, who officially assumed office on 20 January. President Mubarak was the first Arab, Islamic, and African leader to meet with U.S. President Clinton in the White House.

Although the first summit was assessed as an exploration of the dimensions of a crisis and not one that delved into the core of a crisis or found practical solutions to contain it, that first summit yielded historic results that became clear on 12 and 13 September. On those dates, the Israeli Government and the PLO declared mutual recognition and signed their Declaration of Principles in a historic celebration inside the White House. Yasir 'Arafat, with whom the U.S. Administration had banned all relations, became a guest of that administration in its capital and at its governmental headquarters. 'Arafat and the Israeli prime minister came face to face with each other and shook hands before the millions who watched this great event on television.

Thus, and through the extensive and honest Egyptian and U.S. efforts, the first political miracle was achieved in the Middle East, and the wall of fear between the Palestinians and the Israelis came tumbling down. Negotiations are now being held to enable the Palestinians to administer the liberated areas in Gaza and Jericho under the comprehensive plan that promises to make the Palestinian dream come true of a state of Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and of hoisting the Palestinian flag over its capital, eastern Jerusalem.

Since the first Egyptian-U.S. summit yielded splendid results, tomorrow's summit will deal with the remaining important issues that are linked to comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. There are the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks with Israel, the

crisis of the Muslim brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the complicated problem of Somalia and the possibility of restoring hope there. Therefore, we have great hopes for tomorrow's summit so that 1993 will come to a fantastic finale and bring peace, stability, justice, and goodwill to those countries of the world where these things are still absent.

'Positive Results' Expected

NC2310163593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Mubarak Leaves for Washington With the Concerns of the Arabs and the Africans"]

[Text] When President Mubarak leaves for Washington today to meet with President Bill Clinton and top U.S. Administration officials, he takes with him all Arab and African concerns. Egypt occupies a leading position in the Arab arena and shoulders a historic pan-Arab responsibility for the Arab brothers and their problems. Moreover, President Mubarak is the current OAU chairman and is therefore authorized to speak to the world on behalf of Africa.

It is in light of this that people should understand the issues that Mubarak and the U.S. President will discuss. The Middle East peace process will top the agenda, after the recent positive developments on the Palestinian arena represented by the signing of the Declaration of Principles and the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the PLO and Israel. The agreement is a positive step toward a just solution to the Palestine question, which is the center of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But for the peace process to achieve its ultimate objective, intensive diplomatic and political efforts are needed to remove the obstacles in the way of the negotiations between the two sides. Regarding the negotiations, Egypt—through President Mubarak, his credibility, and his international political weight—is apt to play a main role by helping the two sides and protecting the peace process, which Egypt adopted from the very beginning.

The importance of Washington's role is also obvious. Washington is not only one of the world's superpowers—if not the only superpower now—and capable of influencing Israel, but it is also a cosponsor of the Madrid conference, in which the Arabs and Israel sat at the negotiations table for the first time at the end of 1991.

The Mubarak-Clinton meeting next Monday, therefore, is of great importance in terms of both its timing and topics. Mubarak will be meeting with the U.S. President for the second time in several months. He goes to Washington supported by his people's unanimous vote for serving a third term in office. And the practical steps for implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, according to a certain timetable, have already begun on Egyptian territory.

Moreover, Egypt has been involved in intensive diplomatic activity through the United Nations, the Arab League, and the OAU to end the tragedy of the Somali people. Consultations between Egypt and Libya are also continuing to solve the Lockerbie crisis in a way that observes international legitimacy and protects the national sovereignty of fraternal Libya.

There remains an important point that Egypt fully understands: Peace in the Middle East is an indivisible whole. We must try hard, therefore, to achieve successes on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli negotiating tracks similar to those achieved on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks. This is why President Mubarak was recently eager to receive the Syrian foreign minister before leaving for Washington. Mubarak also made a brief visit to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, the custodian of the two holy mosques. Palestinian President 'Arafat recently visited Cairo and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa delivered a message to King Husayn of Jordan. All this was meant for consultations, coordination, unification of positions, and exchange of views before the Mubarak-Clinton meeting.

As it receives President Mubarak with warmth and appreciation today, Washington knows that he came there as a representative not only of the Egyptian people but of the Arab nation and the African continent. Therefore, we expect the Egyptian-American summit to produce positive results not only for the peace process and the African issues but for bilateral relations in all areas, especially the economic field. This will be proven by the next few weeks.

Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman Retrial To Resume

NC2310203893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1954 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 23 Oct (MENA)—The Higher State Security Court in al-Fayyum today decided to set 20 November as the date to resume the retrial of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the Jihad Organization mufti, along with 48 other defendants in connection with the events that took place at the al-Shuhada' Mosque in al-Fayyum in April 1989.

Counselor Ahmad 'Izzat al-'Ashmawi, who presided over the session, made a statement to the press before proceeding with the case in which he called on journalists to observe the press code of honor and stay away from sensationalism. He stressed that the court is not trying a specific belief but, according to the bill of indictment, is [words indistinct] crimes attributed to the defendants.

Security Forces Seize 14 'Terrorists'

NC2210174293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1554 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Security forces have arrested 14 terrorists, including three prominent terrorists: Ashraf Muhammad al-Bursh, Ahmad Tal'at Ibrahim, and Isma'il Muhammad al-Khuli. Two unlicensed

arms merchants. Sabir 'Abd-al-Wadud 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sabri Muhammad 'Ashur, were also arrested. A long-barreled 9-mm pistol was seized from 'Abd-Rabbuh, and 300 7.62-mm bullets for automatic weapons were found with 'Ashur.

The security forces began a broad search campaign this morning to arrest all fugitive terrorists in Cairo, al-Jizah, al-Buhayrah, Qina, Suhaj, and al-Qalyubiyah Governorates. Teams of Interior Ministry detectives, Public Security personnel, and State Security officers took part in the campaign, which was part of the Interior Ministry's plan to exterminate all hotbeds of terrorism and arrest fugitive terrorists.

'Terrorist' Killed, Others Hurt in Prison Clash

NC2410170293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1611 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—A terrorist in the Abu Za'bal Prison died today and 56 other prisoners were injured, as well as six officers, during a clash after the terrorists took an inspection force of the Prisons' Authority hostage that was conducting an inspection.

A responsible source at the Interior Ministry made this statement and added that the dead terrorist is al-Muhammadi Muhammad Mursi, the son of Muhammad Mursi, who has been convicted in case no. 86/412 of the Higher State Security for planning fires in video clubs.

The source said that the Central Security Forces were compelled to deal with the terrorists, after they held the members of the Inspection Force hostage inside the prison barracks. Large quantities of iron, pipes, knives, ropes, and wood were seized. These things were acquired by destroying some prison cells.

The source affirmed that the inspections will continue and that the Interior Ministry will not slacken in enforcing prison laws and regulations on all prisoners.

Man Shot Dead in Asyut; Revenge Suspected

NC2310153993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Citizen Diyab Husayn Ahmad was shot dead this morning in the village of (Arab al-Matir) in the town of al-Badari in the Governorate of Asyut, Upper Egypt. He was shot dead by three gunmen who fled after committing the crime.

A responsible security source stated that the citizen was on his way to work on the al-Badari City Council when unknown gunmen fired shots at him while he was standing in the parking lot of (Arab al- Matir). He died immediately.

The security source pointed out that the initial information affirms that this is a criminal act and could possibly be the result of secret fights or revenge.

The Asyut prosecution has started investigating the incident. The prosecution ordered the body of the dead person to be buried after performing an autopsy to find out the cause of death. Security forces also ordered the criminals to be captured quickly.

Commander Views Navy's Tasks, Modernization

NC2410132193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—In an interview published in AL-JUMHURIYAH today, Navy Commander Vice Admiral Ahmad 'Ali Fadil said that one of the primary tasks of the Egyptian Navy is to secure strategic sea lanes and frustrate attempts by international or regional powers to control them. The Navy, he pointed out, carries out this mission in accordance with current Egyptian national interests and objectives.

Vice Admiral Fadil said that Navy also seeks to curb pollution and protect Egyptian maritime resources, the Suez Canal, and oil installations.

The Navy commander praised the Navy's performance during the recent "Badr 93" drills, in which 65 navy ships took part. The drills, he added, proved the Navy's ability to carry out its duties.

The vice admiral said that the plan to modernize the Navy, drawn up following the October 1973 war, envisaged two parallel lines. One is to modernize the navy ships already in service. These ships, he pointed out, are continually overhauled and refitted with the latest technology.

Vice Admiral Fadil pointed out that the Chinese submarines already in service were refitted with more powerful motors, modern fire control equipment, sonars, and Harpoon missiles.

The second aspect of modernizing the Navy involves the purchase of new vessels, the Navy commander remarked. He added that the Navy will receive U.S. minesweepers early next year. The Navy will also obtain gunboats equipped with modern surveillance equipment.

The vice admiral said that the Navy expects to get U.S. frigates equipped with Harpoon missiles that can be used against submarines. Egyptian crew are currently being trained to operate these frigates, which will be commissioned into active service as soon as they arrive.

The Navy commander pointed out that the Egyptian Navy is capable of securing our shipping lanes in both the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

Libya

Officer Executions Following Coup Bid Reported

NC2210184193 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Muhammad Fayid, representative of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, has stated that Libyan

forces on Monday [18 October] crushed a military rebellion by some Libyan officers and soldiers assisted by some civilians at Bani Walid military base near the coastal town of Misratah.

Meanwhile, Western and Arab diplomatic sources in Tripoli have stated that Libyan forces launched wide-scale arrests and searches in the town. The sources said some officers were executed and wounded people were seen in Tripoli hospitals.

Potential for Rebellion Viewed

LD2210211193 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Fairda Ayari asked a member of the Libyan opposition if it was possible that the army would attempt a mutiny. Mansur al-Kikhya is a former minister in the Libyan Government and is now general secretary of the Libyan National Alliance:

[Begin al-Kikhya recording] It is always possible. In the past, there were always movements within the army, in spite of the fact that he [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] weakened the army, divided it. The army is now somewhat neglected, poorly equipped, but there are two or three regiments that are in the hands of his men, though even these regiments are not sure. A few years ago, one of his cousins was accused of plotting a coup d'etat and was killed. Even those who are closest to him can revolt, because the situation in the country is so bad, especially as concerns human rights, public freedoms, economic life—there are thousands of prisoners. A bad regime can stay on for a long time if nothing comes from within the country. The people will revolt, and his own men also, who are in government, in the police, in the security and the army. [end recording]

Morocco

King Asks Opposition To Take Part in Government

LD2210221593 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Excerpt] We open this bulletin with a communique from the Ministry of Royal Palaces, Protocols, and Medals:

His Majesty King Hassan II this afternoon received at Ifrane's royal palace the representatives of the four political parties that were in the opposition in the previous parliament. They were Mohamed Yazghi, first deputy secretary general of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, who was accompanied by Abdelwahed Radi; Mohamed Boucetta, Istiqlal Party secretary general, who was accompanied by Mr. Mohamed Douiri; Ali Yata, Progress and Socialism Party secretary general, who was accompanied by Moulay Ismail Alaoui; and Mohamed Ben Said Ait Ider, secretary general of the Organization of Popular Democratic Action, who was accompanied by Mr. Mohamed Lamrini.

His majesty opened the meeting with a detailed talk on the current situation in Morocco and informed the political party representatives of his vision of the country's future.

Concluding his talk on the visions and views and on the expectations of renewal and change, which he expressed on behalf of the Moroccan people, he asked the aforementioned political party representatives to participate in the next government which his majesty intends to form soon.

Representatives of those political parties took the floor one after the other and expressed their points of view and asked for more time to consult their executive bodies. [passage omitted]

'Ali Yata on Preparatory Meeting

PM2210160193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Oct 93 p 5

[Interview with 'Ali Yata, secretary general of the Party of Progress and Socialism in Morocco, by Hatim al-Butaywi in Casablanca; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Butaywi] Can we consider the meeting in Casablanca last Saturday among the four parties of the Democratic Bloc—the Independence Party, the Socialist Union, the Action Organization, and the Party of Progress and Socialism—the beginning of a boycott or a new phase of coordination and political action among you? And what was discussed in the meeting?

[Yata] It was the Party of Progress and Socialism that called for that meeting. We had hoped it would be attended by all the five parties of the bloc, including Abdallah Ibrahim, secretary general of the National Union of Popular Forces, whom we had invited. But he told us that he considers the bloc unoperational and that he cannot participate in it except after the electoral process is completed and after subsequent political decisions like the formation of the next government.

So the four parties of the bloc met to prepare the response to the proposals to be submitted by the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, to all the parties in the framework of his consultations to form a new government. [passage omitted]

[Al-Butaywi] The opposition parties have not secured a majority in the elections. Do you support the view that a parliamentary minority government should be formed from among the opposition parties?

[Yata] We say that a government can only be formed by the Moroccan left, because others cannot launch a rejuvenation process. Thus, a government formed by the parties of the Democratic Bloc can secure a majority in the parliament. Because it can make political efforts with some figures and quarters and try to secure their support. If there is not support through votes, at least we can guarantee a neutral position to allow the bloc's government to carry out its task. The efforts aimed at forming the government

and concluding agreements happen in all democratic states. So we can do something similar. That is, make initiatives to guarantee the new government's continuity and survival and to enable it to play its role.

[Al-Butaywi] We understand from what you said that you are considerably optimistic about the Democratic Bloc's formation of the government?

[Yata] Praise be to God, I have always been optimistic. But I believe that the objective conditions for forming a government are available now. And we should secure our own conditions. That is, the parties of the Democratic Bloc should decide to shoulder the responsibility and engage in battles of a new type, different from the battles in which they engaged in the past.

[Al-Butaywi] You said before that you will not join the government except alongside the other three parties of the bloc. My question is: Will you refrain from participating in the government after the developments in the bloc's recent meeting and if your allies fail to join it?

[Yata] I stress once again that we cannot imagine any participation in the government except with the parties of the Democratic Bloc. We cannot in any way agree to participate in a government formed from the "national accord" parties or comprised of technocrats and independents.

We are a political party and have our own program, which perhaps coincides with the programs of the other parties of the Democratic Bloc. So we must participate in the government with these parties or not at all. In such a case we would remain in the opposition, of course. But as it has always been, our opposition would be constructive and would try to push matters forward. [passage omitted]

[Al-Butaywi] The statement issued by the four parties last Saturday reveals that there is disagreement between the Party of Progress and Socialism and the other three parties. But we note that the degree of disagreement with each of the three parties varies, and that there is a kind of sharpness between you and the Independence Party. What is your comment?

[Yata] That is the reality. And you perhaps have noticed that the Independents attacked us more than the other brothers attacked us. And indeed, during the bloc's recent meeting Mohamed Boucetta, secretary general of the Independence Party, told me that in the last meeting of the party's Central Committee most members expressed discontent and leveled accusations at the Party of Progress and Socialism. And that he (Boucetta) tried to ease this orientation. So I told him we had heard something contrary to this and that it was he who led the attack on our party.

They blame us for several positions we have adopted. We in the Party of Progress and Socialism tell them we challenge them and are willing to hold a joint meeting for the central committees of the Independence Party and the Party of Progress and Socialism, leaving the two sides to talk, exchange information, and clarify their comments openly. We will say what we know. We know a lot of things. Praise be to God, as I said, Morocco has become a house of glass; nothing in it is concealed. Anything that happens in it is known to everyone. If we contact the government or the Interior Ministry, they will know. And so do we if they contact the Interior Ministry or any quarter. All these things are known to everyone. We know about the authorities' interference during the elections, and so do they. We know who succeeded in the elections relying on their own capabilities, and we know whom the authorities helped. We have sufficient information and evidence. Thus we are willing to meet and discuss this issue. We have no objection.

They criticize us for agreeing to nominate Taieb Chkili to represent the party in the recent legislative elections, when our party is an opposition party within the Democratic Bloc and when he is a member of the government, namely minister of education, saying it is an unacceptable contradiction. True, Chkili is member of the present government, and he requested to join our party. You know that Chkili was member of the party's leadership in the past and represented the party in the 1977 legislative elections, but regrettably he did not win, because local authorities prevented him from winning. Now conditions have changed. Is Chkili the only member of the government who belongs to an opposition party? Are there not numerous important Independence Party elements occupying government posts or posts in higher departments. The example here is the Moroccan Ambassador to Paris Abbas Fasi, who is a leading member in the Independence Party. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Orders End to Curfew in Khartoum

AB2510135593 Paris AFP in English 1329 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Oct (AFP)—Sudan's President 'Umar Hassan al-Bashir on Monday ordered an end to a curfew imposed in Khartoum when he seized power in a June 1989 coup, telling parliament the curfew should take lifted in one week. General al-Bashir said that under his rule Khartoum had become one of the safest capitals in the world, but added that he had instructed authorities to prevent any outbreak of chaos following the move.

Deputies in the appointed parliament greeted al-Bashir's announcement with cries of "Allahu Akbar" (God is great), before he called on "sons of Sudan who now carry arms to reconsider their position and think about the results of their activities."

He praised efforts by east African leaders to bring about peace with rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been fighting for a decade to end Islamic northern domination of the mainly Christian and animist south. "We will do our best for the success of this

initiative" by Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea amd Uganda, al-Bashir said, adding that it could show the world that Africans were capable of solving their own problems.

Al-Bashir stressed, however, that Islam will remain the guiding religion, saying that commitment to its principles will be mandatory and that "there will be no bargaining or tolerance about it." He also told the parliament, whose members include a number of Christians and animists from the south, that freedom of belief and worship would continue to be guaranteed, citing a Koranic verse meaning that no coercion in faith is allowed. He added that ethnic and cultural diversity would serve as a means of creating firm ties.

The SPLA wants a secular state while Khartoum has argued for the maintenance of shari'ah Islamic law.

Government Devalues Currency Against Dollar

AB2310184293 Paris AFP in English 2315 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 22 (AFP)—The Sudanese Government has fixed a new rate of exchange for its pound against the U.S. dollar in what appeared to be the second devaluation in less than five months.

The new rate of 300 pounds against one U.S. dollar, announced by monetary authorities on Thursday [21 October], devaluates the Sudanese pound by about 75 percent. The rate is to be effective as of Saturday.

The former rate of exchange was 171.7 pounds to the dollar.

The new rate is meant to be used by commercial banks to encourage Sudanese expatriates to send home their remittances, monetary authorities said.

Another rate of 215 pounds to the U.S. dollar was set by the central bank for exporters to boost their earnings.

Last week the Bank of Sudan announced new measures to curb inflation and curb illegal dealings in hard currencies.

Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir said the economic measures adopted by his government "did not mean backing off from economic liberalization policies" but were intended to crack down on "parasite activities."

He blamed hard currency dealers for the current "deterioration of the Sudanese pound."

Minister Discusses Constitutional Revisions

EA2310215893 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice president of the republic, affirmed that recent constitutional developments came after making sure of the progress of the political system and the soundness of the gradual progress of implementation, in that the practice and application of the political system and federal rule had gone on long enough.

His excellency said in press statements that these constitutional developments aim at broadening popular participation in power. He denied that they had come as a result of external or internal pressures.

Opposition Leaders Reportedly Admit Mistakes

EA2210195093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1615 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (SUNA)—Leaders of the so-called Sudanese opposition here admitted that they committed crimes against the Sudan which led to the failure of former experience of democracy in Sudan.

Member of former Supreme State Council Muhammad al-Hassan Abdullah Yasin, who [is] considered one of the top leaders of dissolved Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], said that what had been done by DUP was responsibility of the party leaders Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani and al-Sharif Zayn al-Abidin al-Hindi. Yasin added that DUP was lacking real democracy because it was led by traditional leaders. He opened fire on the acts of the former parties during their government period, describing the performance as very bad because of lacking democracy in DUP party.

Dr. Mudawi al-Turabi, one of DUP leaders waged [as received] the sectarianism leaders who lost the democratic experience because of their continued differences.

Information official in Ummah Party (dissolved) Hasan Ahmad al-Hasan said that controverstal in politic between the different parties was led to failure of the democracy [sentence as received].

A leader of the dissolved communist party, al-Tijani al-Tayyib, assured that his party committed several acts obstacle the Sudan process such as interference of central council during Aboud regime and its stance towards Nimiri coup [sentence as received].

Internal Opposition Bans Government Contacts

PM2210130093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Oct 93 p 1

['Uthman Mirghani and 'Adil Sadiq report, "In Indication of Possible Confrontation and Escalation, Sudanese Opposition Bans Any Contacts With Government"]

[Excerpt] London, Washington—Well-informed sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Sudanese opposition inside the country has decided to suspend any contacts with the government—an indication of a possible escalation after closing the doors to dialogue.

The Sudanese sources said that the opposition's decision means "no understanding, links, or contacts" with the government. They added that the "doors to dialogue or understanding have been closed."

Several meetings were held in the past between government or National Islamic Front figures and leading figures from the outlawed opposition parties. Opposition figures like al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former prime minister and leader of the Ummah Party, called for a democratic national peaceful solution via a constitutional conference.

The decision to suspend contacts means that the calls for dialogue no longer exist and that popular confrontations and demonstrations may escalate.

The sources declined to talk about the opposition's options. They just said that "efforts will focus on increasing the regime's isolation both inside and outside the country."

Meanwhile, decisions have been issued to discharge from service a large number of Armed Forces officers, among them Lieutenant General al-Tahir 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Shaykh, assistant chief of staff, and 10 major generals. [passage omitted]

Accord Reached With Ethiopia on Customs Posts

EA2210121893 Nairobi KNA in English 1020 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Oct (KNA-PANA)—Sudan and Ethiopia have agreed to open more customs posts along their common border in efforts to boost trade and prevent smuggling, Sudan television reported. The report said the agreement was reached after talks in Khartoum between Sudanese and Ethiopian officials led by Sudan's State Minister of Finance 'Abd-al Wahhab Ahmad Hamzah [title as received] and Ethiopia's Deputy Finance Minister [Wendwesen] Kebede. Sudanese officials said the agreement was reached under the framework of their joint ministerial committee meeting.

According to the report, the two sides agreed to end "double taxation" across the border, that is once the shipment is taxed in one country it should not be taxed again when being sent across the border. Final approval would however be given in October. The two sides also agreed to promote joint investments in their countries.

Ethiopian Minister Arrives To Discuss Somalia

EA2310164993 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Oct (SUNA)—Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin arrived this morning for a two-day visit, during which he will deliver to Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, a letter from Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi, within the framework of contacts between the two countries on the current situation in Somalia.

The Ethiopian foreign minister said in a press statement that consultations between the presidents of the region were continuing on the subject of Somalia so as to reach a solution. His excellency said that whatever was happening in Somalia was affecting the region adversely, and added that all were ready to assist their Somali brothers.

The Ethiopian guest was received on arrival at the airport by the caretaker foreign minister, Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, and the Ethiopian Embassy staff in Khartoum.

Bahrain

Amir, U.S. Official Discuss Regional Issues

JN2510110993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister, received here this morning Ambassador Frances Cook, U.S. assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs, and her delegation on the occasion of their visit to Bahrain.

Discussions dealt with a number of regional and international issues of bilateral interest and ways of enhancing the strong friendly bilateral relations and bolstering cooperation in various fields. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Official Meets UN Envoys on Security Corridor

LD2410170093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1504 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 24 Oct (KUNA)—Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Kuwaiti under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, met here today the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that the meeting covered issues concerning Kuwait and the UN Security Council.

The source added that al-Shahin discussed with the ambassadors the latest developments concerning a 200-km long security trench that Kuwait is establishing all along its border with Iraq. The source added that the ambassadors were informed of the achievement realized regarding the security belt, as 170 km have been dug. It pointed out that they were also informed of the upcoming dates for the digging operations that will cover the remaining distance. [passage omitted]

Man Given Life Sentence for Iraqi Collaboration

LD2310135593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1244 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 23 Oct (KUNA)—The State Security Court sentenced one of those accused of contacting and collaborating with Iraqi forces during the occupation of Kuwait to life imprisonment here today. The court acquitted another defendant of the same charges.

At a session held today, the court sentenced defendant Ra'd Ibrahim, a 35-year-old Kuwaiti, to life imprisonment with hard labor, the sentence to be served in full. [passage omitted]

Oman

Deputy Prime Minister Leaves for Yemen

JN2410095993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Muscat, 24 Oct (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman has sent a message to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, Omani deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, left Muscat for Sanaa this morning to deliver the message.

The Omani News Agency said al-Zawawi will also visit Aden and meet with Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

The agency said al-Zawawi's visit to Yemen is within the framework of continuous consultations between the two countries on issues of mutual interest.

Saudi Arabia

Bhutto Arrives in Jeddah From Cyprus 23 Oct

BK2310101093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] After attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived in Jeddah early this morning. During her stay in Saudi Arabia, Benazir Bhutto will perform the minor pilgrimage and will go to Medina to offer her prayers at the mausoleum of Prophet Muhammad. Cabinet Affairs Minister (Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud), the Pakistani Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and Saudi and Pakistani officials received her at the royal pavilion of Jeddah international airport.

Condemns 'Atrocities' in Kashmir

BK2310130193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has strongly condemned the brutal killing of innocent Kashmiris by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. According to a message from Jeddah, the prime minister said this sort of brutal atrocities on the people will vitiate the [word indistinct] situation in the occupied valley and will further intensify tension. Benazir Bhutto said the current situation in occupied Kashmir is totally contrary to the latest offer of talks by Indian Prime Minister Narasmiha Rao to normalize Pakistan-India relations. She urged the Indian authorities to end the siege of Hazratbal Shrine immediately.

Received by King Fahd

LD2310165193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Jeddah, 23 Oct, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud today received Her Excellency Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan, and her accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Pakistan's Bhutto Departs After Talks

JN2410094993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Oct (WAKH)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left Abu Dhabi tonight at the end of a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] that lasted several hours.

During her visit to Abu Dhabi, Bhutto met with His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, and discussed current regional and international issues, the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East, and ways of enhancing solidarity among Islamic countries.

Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid said Bhutto's talks with His Highness Shaykh Zayid dealt with the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kashmir.

Yemen

Delegation Departs for Riyadh Border Talks

JN2510141793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Yemeni delegation to the Yemeni-Saudi joint experts committee for border negotiations left for Riyadh today. The delegation is led by brother Ja'far Sa'id Basalih, deputy director of the Presidential Council Office. The delegation will attend the sixth round of negotiations between the two sides, which they agreed to hold in Riyadh beginning Monday, 25 October. This round is a continuation of previous rounds between the two sides, the last of which was held in Ta'izz between 14-16 [month indistinct].

In a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', the head of the Yemeni delegation expressed the delegation's optimism about achieving the aspirations of the two brotherly countries and safeguarding their rights in accordance with Islamic principles and the rules of international law. He said this optimism is due to the serious negotiations and the accompanying feelings of brotherliness, good faith, and mutual trust.

The delegation was seen off at Sanaa International Airport by brother 'Ali al-Qutaybi, the dean of the diplomatic corps and ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to our country.

Two British 'Spies' Reportedly Apprehended

JN2510105293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Sanaa, 25 Oct (INA)—Yemeni authorities have uncovered a British spy ring using a trade office in Sanaa as its headquarters.

Knowledgeable sources told AL-MUSTAQBAL newspaper that the two members of the ring hold British nationality, and that one of them is of Somali origin. The two carried out spying and subversive activities that violate the country's interests, security, and laws.

The sources explained that the two British spies also involved Yemeni citizens in forging illegal entry visas to Yemen, paying bribes, and selling Yemeni passports to facilitate their spying activities and to collect information.

The paper noted that a Yemeni citizen is involved in the ring's activities, saying that the two British spies had practiced their activities through a trade office owned by a Yemeni citizen opposite the British Embassy in Sanaa.

The paper pointed out that the two spies tried to pose as journalists, noting that they said during the interrogation that they work for Channel 4 of British Television. Inspection and police teams found spying and intelligence equipment with the two spies.

The sources further told the paper that the two spies, Raymond Chiller [name as received] and 'Abdallah Hasan Muhammad, entered Yemen as tourists using forged Lebanese passports.

The sources said the two defendants will stand trial soon in accordance with Yemeni laws.

Attempt To Hijack Egyptian Airliner Foiled

NC2210174693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Sanaa, 22 Oct (MENA)—Security guards on board an Egypt Air passenger plane aborted an attempt by a Yemeni passenger to hijack the plane before it landed at Sanaa airport. The passenger, Ahmad 'Ali Abu-'Ali, tried to enter the pilot's cabin, brandishing a large knife. He demanded that the pilot not land the plane at Sanna airport and fly it to Aden airport instead. The chief steward, who was standing near the cockpit, summoned the security guards, who restrained the passenger and took the knife from him.

Muhyi Shafiq, director of Egypt Air's office in Sanaa, said that after landing the plane, the captain, Hani al-Jarf, contacted the control tower and asked it to send a security force to apprehend the passenger.

Shafiq, who was present at the airport authorities' investigation, said the passenger admitted that he tried to hide

two knives when he entered the passenger lounge at Cairo airport. The Egyptian security guards asked him not to carry the knives with him and to put them in his suitcase, which would be placed in the baggage hold. He put one knife in the suitcase, but kept the other knife.

The investigation revealed that the passenger is mentally disturbed. The Yemeni authorities, however, have decided to arrest him and put him on trial.

Salih Receives Omani Envoy, Qabus Message

JN2410151293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received brother Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, Omani deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, who relayed to the brother president a message from his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on issues and developments related to the strong fraternal bilateral ties and the areas of mutual cooperation and joint investment between the two fraternal countries, as well as regional and Arab developments of interest to the two countries and our Arab nation as a whole.

The brother president asked al-Zawawi to relay his greetings to his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, as well as his wishes of continued good health and happiness to his majesty the sultan, and of further progress and prosperity to the fraternal Omani people.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of industry, and chairman of the General Investment Cooperation, and Omani ambassador in Sanaa 'Awad Bin-Mahfuz Ba-Kathir.

Brother Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, Omani deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs and envoy of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, had arrived in Sanaa earlier in the day on a working visit to our country for talks with Yemeni political leaders.

In a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', the Omani official indicated that he is carrying a message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman to his brother Presidential Council Chairman Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the fraternal bilateral ties of cooperation, the prospects for promoting them, and issues of common interest. The message, he added, also addresses the multifaceted agreements reached between the two countries during the historic visit to Yemen made by His Majesty Sultan Qabus to his second home, Yemen, in early October.

The Omani official was welcomed at Sanaa International Airport by brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and minister of industry; a representative of the Presidential Council Protocol; Omani ambassador in Sanaa brother 'Awad Bin-Mahfuz Ba-Kathir; and embassy staff.

Al-Bid Receives Oman's al-Zawawi

JN2410190693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, received in Aden this afternoon Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs of the fraternal Sultanate of Oman, who conveyed to him a message from his brother Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of promoting them.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed aspects of bilateral relations and issues of common interest. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed that our country was eager to promote brotherly relations between the two countries in light of the deep-rooted, brotherly, and warm ties between the fraternal Yemeni and Omani peoples. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid then asked the Omani official to convey his greetings to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. The meeting was attended by Aden Governor (Salim al-Altini) and Omani Ambassador to Yemen 'Awad Ba-Kathir.

Brother Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi left our country for Muscat this evening.

Agreements Signed With Vietnam Delegation

JN2410141293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The minutes of the Yemeni-Vietnamese talks, as well as an agreement to set up a joint Yemeni-Vietnamese committee for economic and technical cooperation were signed at the General Investment Organization this evening. The two documents were signed on the Yemeni side by brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of industry, and chairman of the General Investment Organization. For Vietnam, they were signed by Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh.

The Joint Yemeni-Vietnamese Committee will be responsible for coordination to promote bilateral cooperation in economic, cultural, scientific, technical, and trade spheres between the two friendly countries. The committee will also oversee the implementation of the agreements concluded between the two countries, and submit recommendations to the governments of the two countries to foster future cooperation between the two countries to make it encompass all possible development domains.

During the signing ceremonies, cordial speeches were exchanged. The speakers expressed satisfaction with the positive results of the talks. They affirmed the need to implement all that has been agreed on in the interest of the two friendly countries.

In a related development, an executive program for scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation between the two friendly countries was signed. It was signed on

the Yemeni side by Deputy Education Minister brother Dr. Salim Ba-Salim, whereas it was signed on the Vietnamese side by Vietnamese Deputy Education Minister Professor Dr. Pham Minh Hak.

The program provides for the exchange of expertise in educational, technical, and cultural areas. Under the program, the Vietnamese side will grant our country scholarships in the fields of medicine, pharmaceutical studies, agriculture, and engineering. It will also train Yemeni technical cadres at Vietnamese technical institutes. In return, our country will grant the Vietnamese side university scholarships in Arabic.

The signing ceremony was attended by several officials of the agencies concerned.

Al-'Attas on Union, GPC-YSP Tension

NC2310064793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2133 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has warned that Yemeni unity is now going through a decisive test period that will determine whether it will continue or not.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM published tomorrow [23 October], al-'Attas said that the forces wishing to undermine the country's unity are the same that have provoked tension between the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], the government's coalition partners.

Al-'Attas called for Egyptian-Yemeni coordination to prevent terrorist acts that can harm democratic life in the two countries and undermine their citizens' well-being.

The Yemeni prime minister declared that his country will not permit any terrorist act to undermine the process of unity and democracy. He noted that some individuals returning from Afghanistan, including some Egyptians, have taken part in several terrorist acts.

Concerning the Egyptian fishermen detained in Yemen, al-'Attas told AL-AHRAM that he personally intervened with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to have them released after making them pledge not to violate Yemen's territorial waters again. He added that some have been released while others have been referred to the courts. He said he hopes the Egyptian authorities will cooperate with their Yemeni counterparts to prevent a recurrence of such incidents.

The Yemeni prime minister explained to AL-AHRAM the aspects of the dispute between the GPC and the YSP, saying that a plan to merge the two parties was proposed before last April's elections but it failed because some people opposed to the merger intervened and provoked tensions.

Al-'Attas said that the tension followed the assassination of a large number of YSP members with the aim of antagonizing it and forcing it to pull out of the country's union. Al-'Attas explained that the governing coalition is still discussing the 18 points raised by [YSP Secretary General] 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

The Yemeni prime minister denied reports that his country is using its Jewish community to open a channel to Israel, but pointed out that out of respect for democratic rules, Yemen cannot prevent its citizens from exercising their freedom to travel.

Al-Ahmar Discusses Constitutional Changes

NC2410082593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, has said that the transition period has ended and unity has become an irreversible reality.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM, published today, al-Ahmar said that the decision of Socialist Party Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid to live in seclusion in Aden will not undermine the unity process in Yemen. He noted that al-Bid will not assume his responsibilities as vice president until he takes the constitutional oath in front the House of Representatives.

Shaykh al-Ahmar said the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] is a partner in the ruling coalition, and he can express his views in the Presidential Council or the House of Representatives.

Answering a question about expected constitutional changes, the Yemeni official said that the present constitution was drawn up in the 1970's in circumstances different from the current ones. He added that the coalition parties—the YSP, Congress Party, and Yemeni Unionist Alliance—have agreed to amend the Constitution and not draw up a new constitution.

Shaykh al-Ahmar revealed that the proposed amendments will include the transfer of the powers of the Presidential Council to the president of the republic, who will be directly elected by the people.

Shaykh al-Ahmar reiterated his country's intention to strengthen Arab solidarity and to resolve all Yemen's problems with neighboring countries through direct negotiations.

U.S. Embassy in Amman Denies 'Aziz Meeting

JN2510082293 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 24-25 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] This morning we received a denial from the U.S. Embassy in Amman of the report published in AKHIR KHABAR that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with an Embassy official in Amman last week.

We will follow up this report in a later issue.

Meanwhile, AKHIR KHABAR has learned that an unannounced dialogue began between Damascus and Baghdad during the past few days.

The sources emphasized that this dialogue may develop and soon bear fruit.

U.S. 'Plan' Against Iraqi Soccer Team Decried

JN2410111293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)—The newspaper BABIL strongly regrets the fact that Bill Clinton, president of the sole world superpower, has chosen to dedicate some of his time to following the progress of the Iraqi team in the Doha qualifying matches so as to take measures that would prevent the Iraqi team from entering the United States should it qualify for the World Cup finals.

In an editorial today, the paper says that this indisputably and unequivocally shows that the Iraqi individual remains the target of the hostile U.S.-Zionist scheme.

It is to be recalled that news reports have spoken [words indistinct] of a U.S. plan to advance several pretexts to prevent the Iraqi national team from entering U.S. territory if it wins the championship qualifying matches and qualifies for the Mondial finals in Atlanta.

BABIL condemns the treasonous and aggressive conduct of the Riyadh rulers, who have persistently tried to make the Iraqi team lose the Doha qualifying matches and prevent it from qualifying for the finals.

The paper adds: The Saudi rulers, just like their masters, are hatching conspiracies in dark cellars and lobbies. They are spending millions of dollars to buy the consciences of people who are willing to disavow honesty, integrity, and clean sportsmanship to prevent the Iraqi team from winning.

BABIL says it is confident that the spirit of the mujahid Iraqi individual, who is capable of patience and persistence in the bleakest of circumstances, will manifest itself in the performance of all the Iraqi team players until victory is achieved on the playing field, just as victory was achieved over Iraq's enemies on the battlefield.

'Deep Concern' Over Saudi Soccer Fans

JN2310212693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—The Iraqi Central Football Union has expressed deep concern over the possibility of the Iraqi soccer team coming under immoral practices by the Saudi fans similar to those that took place following the Saudi-South Korean soccer match in Doha yesterday.

It is noteworthy that the Iraqi team will meet the Saudi team tomorrow afternoon within the current World Cup soccer qualification games in the Qatari capital.

The Saudi fans carried out large-scale riots following their team's tie with the South Korean team yesterday, Friday. Having broken the fences in the stadium, the Saudi fans took to the field and assailed the Korean players.

Dr. Sabah Muhammad Mustafa, a member of the Iraqi Central Football Union, said: We are viewing with deep concern those unsportsmanlike incidents that are not in line with the International Football Federation's call for fair play.

In press conference today, Dr. Mustafa added: In view of the fundamental and crucial differences existing between us and Saudi Arabia, we do not rule out that our team might come under assaults and abuse by the Saudi fans.

He disclosed that Baghdad has sent instructions to the head of the Iraqi delegation in Doha to ask for an urgent meeting by the committee organizing the qualification games to discuss the riots that accompanied yesterday's match. [passage omitted]

Reasons for 'Aziz Visit to France Questioned

PM2210111293 Paris LE MONDE in French 21 Oct 93 p 28

[Report by Mouna Naim: "Mr. Tariq 'Aziz' Visit to France Is Raising Many Questions"]

[Text] What is Tariq 'Aziz' problem, and what illness has he come to France to have treated? Could any health problems suffered by the Iraqi vice president not have been treated elsewhere, and was it really necessary for France to show such an acute sense of humanitarian need in the case of one of the leading members of a regime outlawed by the international community?

Of course, none of the many resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council prohibits a country from receiving an Iraqi Government member. And Mr. 'Aziz and others have already been received in Jordan, at UN headquarters or elsewhere. But many people are asking questions about the real reasons for this visit, and diplomats and members of the opposition have as many suspicions.

Officially, Mr. 'Aziz has come to France "for medical reasons." Also according to an official source, he is in

France for about a week. According to another well-informed source, he arrived on Thursday, 14 October on a scheduled flight from Amman.

In the afternoon of Monday, 18 October, AFP reported, Mr. 'Aziz, accompanied by his wife and daughter, went for a consultation at the Beauvoir rehabilitation center in Evry, Essonne, where he was received by Dr. Louis Albrand, the director. The latter was in the news in 1986-1987 when he submitted a report to the Justice Ministry on the treatment of drug addicts in locked units.

An Iraqi diplomat whom we questioned merely said that Mr. 'Aziz, "who has been working without a break for several years, needed a health check" and that he would "remain in France while tests are completed, which will be around 10 days." Also according to this diplomat, Mr. 'Aziz does not want to receive journalists to "avoid giving his visit a political character." Asked why the former foreign minister and one of Saddam Husayn's oldest colleagues had chosen France, this diplomat's reply was very...diplomatic: "Which do you think was preferable, New York, London, or Paris?" The answer does not seem to be as obvious as the question would suggest.

Whether Mr. 'Aziz is suffering from heart, skin, or other problems, depending on what version you hear, another Arab diplomat is sure of one thing: The Iraqi leader dined on Sunday evening in one of the best Lebanese restaurants in Paris. And he added: "It is not very responsible of the French Government to invoke medical reasons."

Although they generally tend to be overly suspicious, the Iraqi oppositionists are also asking questions. "We know," a member of the Iraqi National Congress based in London told us, "that, a year ago, French officials acted as intermediaries between some members of the opposition, whose names I will not mention, and the Baghdad government. Mr. 'Aziz' visit does not strike us as innocent," this oppositionist added.

"We are very worried," the representative in France of the Kurdish "government" told us. "Despite the official French statements, we are convinced that Tariq 'Aziz' visit has a significance other than health problems. After all, France has many interests in Iraq," and oil interests are not least among them. Mr. Muhammad Isma'il added. Three other opposition parties, the al-Da'wah (Islamic) party, the Iraqi Communist Party, and al-Wifaq have issued a communique expressing their "astonishment" at seeing Paris welcome Tariq 'Aziz.

"Is there any need to remind people that the Iraqi people are continuing to suffer the reign of terror and repression imposed by Saddam Husayn's regime?" the three parties ask "in the name of the Iraqi opposition in France." "It strikes us as shocking that France should decide to welcome the Iraqi regime's executioners instead of helping the people and the opposition forces to bring them before an international court for crimes committed against their people," these oppositionists add.

The France-Libertes Foundation, whose president, Danielle Mitterrand, is a great friend of the Kurds, expressed surprise and even shock at this visit and asked why, if Mr. 'Aziz is really ill, it was absolutely necessary for him to be treated in France.

Physician Confirms 'Aziz Treatment

LD2310134093 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1200 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Before he left, Yasir 'Arafat announced to journalists the departure from Paris of Tariq 'Aziz. The number two of the Iraqi regime has, therefore, definitely spent some time in Paris for medical reasons. Doctor Louis Albrand, who treated him, confirmed it to Gerard Sebag.

[Begin recording] [Albrand] I treated the Iraqi number two. He came to see me because he was suffering from various ailments. The treatment consisted of a general check up and tests and prescription for these ailments.

[Sebag] Are these ailments serious? Could you tell us a bit more?

[Albrand] As you know, Article 178 of the penal code does not allow me to reveal the medical secrets of my patients, be they a head of state or an ordinary person. I respect the medical privacy of my patients.

[Sebag] Who was in charge of his security?

[Albrand] As far as I know, his security was assured by his own guard, and I think he also had protection from the French police. [end recording]

UK Parliamentarian on Chemical Gas Attack in South

LD2210113293 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1000 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Saddam Husayn's troops have killed or injured hundreds of people in a chemical gas attack on villages in Iraq's marshlands, it was reported today.

Tory MP Emma Nicholson, who is involved with a refugee camp on the Iraq-Iran border, said doctors working there had received similar reports from refugees fleeing the area near the south-eastern Iraqi city of al-Basrah.

"Patients have come across from the Iraqi side and have reported to them that there has indeed been a terrible chemical weapons assault," she told BBC Radio. "(They said) nerve gas has been used, which means that you suffocate to death, some have survived and reached the safety of Iran, some civilians died," the Devon West and Torridge MP said.

"They also said ... 20 to 30 Iraqi soldiers died because the wind blew nerve gas back at them," she added.

The Supreme Council of Islamic Resistance, a Tehran-based Shiite Muslim Iraqi opposition group, said the attack took place on September 29. In a statement issued

in London it quoted eyewitnesses as saying a white cloud of gas had enveloped the villages, causing blisters, bleeding and breathing difficulties in hundreds of families who fled. Many of them had died.

The Foreign Office said it was checking the reports but an official said he believed it was unlikely that chemical weapons were used, although he added that it was possible a chemical called white phosphorus may have been used.

"It ... is not classified by us as a chemical weapon, though it can be pretty nasty," the official said.

Radio Reports Regime's 'Repressive' Measures

NC2210222593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] According to reports from Baghdad, Iraqi authorities executed 30 Army deserters and confiscated their movable and immovable property on 20, 21, and 22 August. The regime men detained Captain Wassam Riyad, from the al-Mashtal neighborhood of Baghdad. He is a former prisoner of war who has recently returned from Iran. His family does not know why he was arrested.

A reliable source informed us that Saddam Husayn, the president of the Iraqi regime, has recently appointed his personal secretary, 'Abd Humud Mahmud, as head of a new repressive security service that will supervise the members of the intelligence and security service. This is one of the measures taken by Saddam following the recent coup attempt.

As part of the regime's attempt to terrorize citizens, the repressive authorities declared a curfew in al-'Amarah on 15 August. A number of people were detained after houses were raided and searched. The same source said that Major General Bashir al-Talib and Major General Husayn 'Ali, former director of public security, were executed for participating in the recent coup attempt.

Reliable sources said that during a visit by the dictator Saddam to al-'Awjah village on 25 August, a group of 20 armed men attacked his convoy. A fierce confrontation took place between the armed men and the guards. The entire armed group was killed. Three of Saddam's guards, including the brother of his son-in-law Arshad Yasin, were wounded. The same sources said that 30 people were executed under the personal supervision of Saddam's son, Qusayy, at al-Radwaniyah prison. Among those executed was 'Allamah Shaykh Ja'far al-Musawi, who was executed by Qusayy after his beard was set on fire and he was savagely tortured.

According to reports, a group of opposition members, including Salam Bastu from Mosul and 'Abd-al-Karim Hani, a minister of labor during the ['Abd-al-Salam] 'Arif era, were executed.

Regime Reportedly Disarms Tribes in Tikrit

NC2210162093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1443 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The Saddamist regime has issued strict instructions to party branches in Tikrit to disarm the local tribes there. These orders have come in the wake of the tribes' opposition to the regime, which has turned into military confrontations several times.

Eyewitnesses say since the attempt to assassinate the tyrant [Saddam Husayn] in the town of al-'Awja', the town of Tikrit has been experiencing unstable conditions. Checkpoints exist on all streets. Close aides of the tyrant's family carry out arbitrary acts against the tribal inhabitants in Tikrit, especially those who took part in the recent coup attempt.

Minister Given 'New Responsibilities' as Governor

JN2210183693 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Oct 93 p 4

[Excerpt] Mosul—In implementation of leader President Saddam Husayn's directives, Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan has assumed new responsibilities as a governor of Ninawa, in addition to his post. Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan said: We came to this brave governorate, which is dear to great leader Saddam Husayn and which has always been a city of pride and honor and an example of national sacrifice, to offer the best services to its glorious sons.

He added that the governorate was at the forefront of the governorates that defended Iraq and offered sacrifices during the glorious al-Qadisiyah battle and the eternal Mother of Battles for the sake of Iraq and its dignity and strength.

In his capacity as Ninawa governor, the interior minister told an INA correspondent in the governorate that leader President mujahid Saddam Husayn has allocated 25 million dinars for the sons of the city of arrows [Ninawa] to promote municipal services there. [passage omitted]

Explosion Reported Near French Embassy in Tel Aviv

TA2410131793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] It has been just announced that there had been an explosion in the vicinity of the French Embassy on Hayarqon Street in Tel Aviv. There were no casualties. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that no other details are available at this time.

Kahana Hay Claims Responsibility

TA2410140993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] A man identifying himself as a member of the Kahana Hay movement called IDF Radio a short time ago, saying his movement assumes responsibility for the explosion near the French Embassy in Tel Aviv because of 'Arafat's visit to France and the agreements he signed there. He warned that the Kahana Hay movement would continue to stage terrorist attacks against French targets throughout the world.

However, as we heard from our correspondent earlier, the dynamite sticks that caused the explosion had been buried in the beach opposite the French Embassy.

Hamas 'Terrorists' Kill 2 IDF Soldiers in Gaza Strip

TA2410194993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reservists were killed today in the Gaza Strip by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists. They are 23-year-old Ilan Levi from Lod and 30-year-old Ehud Roth from Kibbutz Hazerim.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the two soldiers ended their shift this morning, and an IDF patrol drove them to the entrance of the settlement of Pe'at Sade so that they could wait for transportation in a safe and protected place. A Rafiah Yam settler recounted that she picked up the soldiers at the Pe'at Sade junction and drove them to the Neve Deqalim intersection. Two terrorists disguised as orthodox Jews arrived on the scene in a stolen Subaru bearing license plates of another Israeli car and picked up the two soldiers who sat in the back seat. As they drove away, the terrorists murdered them and dumped their bodies near the Morag junction south of Khan Yunus, taking away their weapons. The commander of the area, a colonel, said the bodies of the two soldiers bore gunshot wounds.

A leaflet signed by Hamas, found not far away from the Morag junction, stated that this was the gift of the murderers to peace and that peace between Israel and Hamas would only be made in a cemetery. The car used by the terrorists, bearing evidence of a struggle and blood stains, was found some 500 meters away from the bodies. The security forces, assisted by helicopters, launched a search. Their main effort is centered on capturing some 20 wanted Hamas members, whose identities are known, on the assumption that some of them were involved in the murder. [A related report on Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1845 GMT on 24 October adds: "At noon, graffiti appeared in Gaza in which members of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qasam squad promise Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', commander of IDF troops in the Gaza Strip, that this is just the beginning."]

Here is some reaction to the murder: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that any terrorist attack these days is being perpetrated by those who want to harm the peace process. He stressed that we must go on fighting Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the rejectionist organizations sponsored by Syria because these groups will go on trying to carry out more attacks in a bid to sabotage the agreement with the PLO.

Knesset Member [MK] Eli Dayan, chairman of Labor's Knesset faction, says this was a despicable murder committed by heinous people; a murder which underscores the fact that murderers whose hands are tainted with blood should not be released.

The Likud says the prime minister bears personal responsibility for the security of citizens and soldiers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. MK Ron Nahman says Hamas terrorists should not be allowed to come back from Lebanon so as not to put more murderers back within the boundaries of Israel. MK Eliyahu Ben-Elizar says there is no difference between the PLO and Hamas murderers. That is why terrorists who have been charged with perpetrating attacks should not be released as long as the terror continues.

Tzomet's Knesset faction says it has once again been proven that the agreement with the PLO is merely a piece of paper. Tzomet demands a halt to the talks with the PLO at once, until the intifadah is finally terminated.

Moledet also calls for a halt to the talks and not to release Palestinian prisoners. This was also the demand voiced by Zvulun Hammer, leader of the National Religious Party. The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza expressed its sorrow about the attack. A spokesman said that IDF soldiers should not bother capturing the assassins since they will sooner or later be released anyway.

Rabin Comments on 'Delicate' Gaza Situation

TA2410171393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The gradual release of 760 Palestinian prisoners will begin tomorrow and go on for about a week, the cabinet was told at this morning's meeting.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said at the meeting that the current transitory situation is complex. The situation in Gaza, Rabin said, is the most delicate of all. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin Segal recording] This interim situation is delicate. Prime Minister Rabin said at the cabinet meeting, referring to the state of security in the territories. We are responsible for the territories, but the Palestinians expect changes to take place, and in addition, they have internal problems.

Rabin stressed that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops should focus on the war against terrorist squads and on maintaining public law and order. The situation in Gaza is even more sensitive, Rabin said, and peace opponents are naturally trying to step up their attacks. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The responsibility for recent terrorist attacks lies with Palestinian members of the rejectionist front, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said at a municipal elections rally in Jerusalem today. We will continue fighting the peace opponents on both the Israeli and the Palestinian sides, and we will continue trying to implement the agreement of principles with those who support it. Our correspondent Tali Katzenelson reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenelson] Although this is an extremely sensitive period, the prime minister said a short while ago, we should remember we do not have a peace agreement as yet. All we have is an agreement which may be a significant step toward peace, but it is still a mere step. The implementation of the agreement of principles will entail many difficulties, mainly from the Palestinian side, and mainly from the rejectionist front.

[Rabin] They will continue their willful attempts to harm the peace agreement by harming Jews and Israelis, hoping for reaction from the Israeli public. PLO-Tunis has adhered to the commitment it made on 13 September, and not a single terrorist attack has been carried out in Israel by that organization or its branches since that date.

Palestinians in the territories are split by an internal struggle between the supporters and the opponents of the agreement. The opponents are the only ones who perpetrate terrorist attacks.

[Katzenelson] I know it is hard to distinguish between those who desire peace and those who fight against it, Rabin said. Israelis find it hard to differentiate between Palestinian factions, but signing agreements makes no sense unless one undertakes to implement them. In my view, this agreement of principles is a success, he added.

And no, the prime minister was not worried about the most recent coalition crisis, and he did not believe it will affect the peace process.

[Rabin] First of all, we do have 61 votes. I believe the Israeli public's support for this agreement is far more extensive than is reflected in the parliamentary makeup. But we can implement the agreement even with the present parliamentary makeup.

[Katzenelson] We will pursue the process, the prime minister said, and he believed it would be a success. [end recording]

Rabin Discusses Terror, Coalition, Peace Process

TA2510073593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Hayim Zissowitz and Shlomo Raz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Shalom. Yesterday was a hard day for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. Two soldiers were murdered in the Gaza Strip. I would like to extend my condolences to the grieving families who lost their dear ones. We live in a sensitive time. We are negotiating with Palestinians who agreed to change their positions, reach an understanding with us, and stop terror. At the same time, we face extreme Islamic organizations such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, as well as the Palestinian rejectionist fronts. We have always known, and they have stated as much, that they will act to intensify terror. They have a double aim: killing Jews wherever they may be, and killing the chance to implement the agreement. This is a harsh reality, but we must deal with it, nevertheless, so as not to allow the Islamic fundamentalists to dictate moves.

[Zissowitz] Qatif Bloc settlers, however, have been asking: What good is the agreement with the PLO, when the Hamas and Islamic Jihad continue their terror and murder?

[Rabin] Indeed, since we are currently negotiating the implementation of the declaration of principles agreement with the PLO, our well-founded working assumption is that while the Palestinians who forged the agreement with us assume responsibility for security in the purely Palestinian regions, they will also have to take charge of guarding public order and security for the Palestinian residents and preventing activity against us.

[Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, why were Islamic Jihad and Hamas members on the list of those slated for release in the first place?

[Rabin] There were a few young or ill individuals on the list. Naturally, they will not be released in view of the incident. In principle, we will do the same in the future.

[Raz] Is the decision not to free them temporary? Will they be released eventually?

[Rabin] They will remain in prison.

[Raz] Do you not expect the PLO—with which we have a signed agreement—to at least condemn the murders, if not to take practical action against them?

[Rabin] I expect them to issue a condemnation, but—as long as they have not fully assumed responsibility—I do not expect more than a commitment not to act as a terror organization and prevent violence.

[*Zissowitz*] They also pledged to condemn terror.

[Rabin] They pledged to renounce terrorism [last three words in English]—this is true, to condemn terror. At the same time, I do not expect them to show such chivalry at this time. We know who we are dealing with. This is not the main issue. The main thing for me is to continue the negotiations in Taba and to reach agreements on security for the Israeli settlements, for Israelis on the roads, and for external security.

[*Raz*] Will this attack have an effect on the negotiations in Taba, which are to begin tomorrow, or on the IDF redeployment in, and the extent of withdrawal from, the Gaza Strip?

[Rabin] No. Our plans take into account the security needs of the Israeli settlement in Gaza and, as I said, external security. In this case, the soldiers believed they were taking a ride in an Israeli car, when in fact it was stolen a month ago in Gan Yavne and driven by persons posing as Jews. Such cases are naturally very complicated and hard to prevent. We will have to be careful to avoid such incidents during the interim period.

[*Zissowitz*] Israel signed the agreement with the PLO, not as one of many Palestinian terror organizations, but as a representative of the Palestinian people, an umbrella organization that could lead the move. Does the fact that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad continue terrorist activity not indicate that the PLO is unable to deliver the goods Israel expects?

[Rabin] Absolutely not. I believe the PLO is able, but it was clear to us even before we signed the agreement that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, as well as other Palestinian extremists whose headquarters are located in Syria, oppose making any agreement with Israel. According to their fundamentalist religious concepts, they believe a Jewish state has no right to exist at all. Their war against us is a total war over our existence. This is the main difference between them and the PLO after the mutual recognition and the agreement of principles. We knew that Hamas would intensify its activity. Nothing unexpected has happened. Naturally, when such brutal murders take place, we are shaken—which is natural and human—but as trends go, it was not unexpected.

[*Raz*] In a meeting yesterday, the United Kibbutzim Movement, made up of members of your party, leveled harsh criticism at you and Labor. Several senior Knesset members criticized elements of the permanent arrangement, while on the other hand the deputy foreign minister commented on the permanent arrangement. This contradicts the policy you have determined, does it not?

[Rabin] Look, democracy is about freedom of expression. The government and myself are guided by a clear line: Presently, we are dealing with solutions for the interim period. It has always been an arrangement applying to all the territories, excluding united Jerusalem. The arrangement does not determine or prevent us in any way from adhering to the Labor Party stands as expressed in the party platform when discussing the permanent arrangement. At the same time, Labor has very clear positions regarding the permanent arrangement: We do not support the concept of Greater Israel because this would make Israel a binational state through an annexation of some 2 million Palestinians. At the same time, in no way will we withdraw to the borders of 1967. Our key concepts are Greater Jerusalem, the Jordan River as the security border, and so on. Nevertheless, we should not be dealing with this at this time. These are well-known stands. Presently, after yesterday's incident and certainly when dealing with the efforts by Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Palestinian rejectionist organizations to intensify terror in order to prevent the interim agreement altogether, we should focus on implementing the interim arrangement. It is still two and one-half years at the most before we reach the negotiations of the permanent arrangement. If we fail in implementing the interim agreement, talking about the permanent arrangement is pure imagination.

[*Raz*] What of the kibbutzim and settlements in the Jericho area? Will they be part of the territory of the autonomy at this stage, the stage of Gaza and Jericho First, or can you promise them something else?

[Rabin] Our intention is for the Jewish settlements not to be part of the Jericho area autonomy, though they will be in Gaza.

[*Zissowitz*] Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin has said that speaking about developing the Jordan Rift Valley settlements only creates illusions. Does this, or does the remark you have just made, express the government policy?

[Rabin] The stand you mentioned expresses nothing but the opinion of the deputy foreign minister. This is not the government policy. The government policy today is to deal with implementing the first stage, the success of which will determine the possibility of reaching a permanent arrangement.

[*Zissowitz*] On another issue, you have spoken before about the freedom of expression in a democratic party. Does this include the freedom of four Labor Knesset members [MK's] who warned they would not vote for the state budget if their demands are not met?

[Rabin] I hope they are not committed to the statements they have made. It is inconceivable that when the Knesset holds a vote that means an expression of confidence in the government—and according to Israeli law and custom, a vote on the state budget offer is a vote of confidence—Labor MK's could have a right to make such threats. The mandate we have was given to the Labor Party list as a group. None of them was directly

and personally elected by the public. The mandate was given to the Labor Party list, and not to individuals on it.

[Zissowitz] Will those who will vote against remain part of that list?

[Rabin] I am certain this will not happen eventually, that is why I prefer not to deal with speculations about something that will not happen. It is inconceivable that when a confidence vote is held an MK from the Labor faction, who was elected as part of a list and not on an individual basis, should use a mandate given to Labor against it.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is coming here next month. What will you talk about when the Americans are pressing in the direction of Syria, while the Israeli Government does not accept the pressures?

[Rabin] I do not know yet the date of the arrival here of the U.S. secretary of state. Our stand on this issue is clear: We want to make peace, to sign peace treaties, with the three Arab countries with which we do not have a peace contract—Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. At the same time, we want to implement the agreement on the interim arrangement we made with the Palestinians, the PLO. I believe the main test for making peace today, would be the proof that a signed agreement can be implemented. Another priority is reaching additional agreements. That is why we need a not too long period of time to focus on one thing: implementing the agreement with the Palestinians, mainly the first stage of Gaza and Jericho First, in order to examine in practice the ability to attain an agreement that would provide us with the security we need, while allowing the Palestinians to run their daily life by themselves without our interference. We must create a reality of coexistence different from today's.

Rabin: Settlements To Remain 'Where They Are'

TA2410182593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpts] There has been a 50-percent drop in the number of attacks in the West Bank since Israel's agreement with the PLO. But, according to Prime Minister Rabin during a tour of Jerusalem this afternoon, the extreme fundamentalist groups—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad—are still doing everything they can to step up acts of terrorism. [passage omitted]

On another issue, Rabin reiterated that the Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will remain where they are. He said Israel did not want to repeat the experience of uprooting civilian communities as the price for peace. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will continue to be responsible for security in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and along the confrontation border, he said.

Aloni, Der'i, Shahal on Terror, Prisoner Release

TA2510083393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Speaking to our correspondent this morning, Minister Shulamit Aloni said that Israel should demand that the PLO condemn terror. A body that wants to establish a state, must renounce terror and condemn it. She added that, in releasing the Palestinian prisoners, a distinction should be made between political prisoners and actual criminals. Those sitting in jail for murder should stay there.

Knesset Member [MK] Arye Der'i, leader of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Movement, has said that murders by Muslim fundamentalists were expected and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is doing all that it can to prevent them. Speaking to our correspondent this morning, MK Der'i said that no magic cure could prevent such murders. He understands the calls to stop releasing the Palestinian prisoners, but what will we do tomorrow if more murders take place, he said. He believes that the statements the parties have been making in reaction to the murders are designed to suit the upcoming municipal elections, which is irresponsible.

MK Der'i further said that if the finance minister keeps his promises to SHAS, made some three months ago, the faction will make no new demands and will vote for the state budget. Regarding the import of nonkosher meat, he said that if Israel is flooded with nonkosher meat, it would be a red line for SHAS. He was pleased to hear that the prime minister has pledged to prevent the import of such meat.

[In a related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 25 October, Police Minister Moshe Shahal says, in a recorded passage: "We know that it was done by the Hamas, and we know that they will try to sabotage the peace process. We are going to deal with the matter, and to have those who murdered the two soldiers taken to be punished. We hope that in the near future, when the Palestinians are going to have the self-governing authority that they will take steps to stop those acts that are sabotaging the peace, and hurting both sides—the Israelis and the Palestinians themselves."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 25 October adds: "Police Minister Moshe Shahal has said that less than 700 Palestinian prisoners will be released today, and it is not certain that more will be released this week. He added that he is familiar with the list of those slated for release, and he can therefore say that it is certain they will not engage in terror acts nor will they pose a threat."]

Peres on Ross Visit, Talks with Syria, Palestinians

TA2210180893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem on 22 October—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Ganor] Mr. Foreign Minister, what were the results of the visit of the U.S. peace team to the region?

[Peres] First of all, the visit underscored the continued involvement of the United States in the peace process. Second, the United States seeks a continuation of the negotiation with the Palestinians, Jordanians, and Syrians. The United States is determined to achieve a comprehensive peace. Actually, Israel feels the same way; however, we may have a different assessment of President al-Asad's positions.

[Ganor] Did Israel throw Dennis Ross the a rope in order to maintain the momentum in the talks with Syria?

[Peres] No one has taken exception to Israel's positions as such. I did not hear any U.S. officials say that the nature of peace could remain ambiguous, or call for symmetrical security arrangements with any demilitarization of the Golan Heights being accompanied by a parallel demilitarization within Israel. That is ridiculous. However, the Americans may be more convinced that al-Asad has reached a strategic decision subsequently enabling us to expect further developments.

[Ganor] Which developments?

[Peres] For example, clarifications on the nature of peace, more detailed discussion of security issues, and a greater degree of uniformity between Syria's positions in Washington and in Lebanon. In Washington, Syria is all smiles, but in Lebanon it occasionally shows some very sharp edges. We have highlighted this disparity.

[Ganor] Does the United States accept Israel's explanations that it is currently preferable to promote the agreement with the Palestinians and not spread our efforts to the Syrian track as well?

[Peres] I believe so. The only problem is the assessment of how much time is needed in order to digest these developments and whether it is a matter of two or three months, or more. Of course, we would also like to conclude the negotiations with Jordan. Pursuing the negotiations with Syria should in no way deter us from trying to conclude matters with Jordan.

[Ganor] So what is holding things up?

[Peres] Nothing. We simply have to arrange the logistics: where we meet, how we meet, and so forth. Jordan is delaying things a bit right now because of the elections there on 8 November. In my assessment, we will have to wait till after that date for any real developments vis a vis Jordan.

[Ganor] What are the chances of holding the next round of talks in Washington?

[Peres] The proposed date is in November. Feelers were sent out to see whether the talks with the Palestinians could be brought forward to the end of October. The question we are currently facing is whether it is good to have two rounds of talks going on simultaneously. One round of talks in Taba, and the second in Washington. We would like to see how things are proceeding in Taba before making a final decision on the date for the talks with the Palestinians.

[Ganor] I understand that to mean that the next round of talks will be postponed?

[Peres] That is possible. We are only talking about a few weeks, nothing dramatic.

[Ganor] Will that affect the possible visit of Secretary of State Christopher to the region?

[Peres] Not necessarily. I believe that the secretary plans to come at the beginning of November. I think that is a good time; however, the Americans will probably only decide after Mr. Dennis Ross completes his current shuttle mission.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, how is the implementation of the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians proceeding?

[Peres] Up till now, everything has gone according to schedule. We signed the agreement on 13 September. We said that we would start more practical discussions one month after that, on 13 October, and the Liaison Committee in Cairo, and the committee on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement in Taba, convened precisely on that date. The Palestinians themselves have asked for some time to hold consultations. For our part, we would have been prepared to hold more continuous talks. Obviously, some disagreements have arisen, and that is only natural. Whoever thought that everybody would agree on everything each morning was guilty of some exaggeration. It is only natural for there to be ups and downs in every negotiation process; however, I believe that we will be able to meet our timetable. [passage omitted]

Peres Accuses Syria of Adopting 'Rigid' Positions

TA2310144793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Syria has adopted rigid positions in the peace process and has refused to open additional channels for dialogue with Israel or even to hold secret contacts with Jerusalem.

In an interview to the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM, Foreign Minister Peres said that Syria sought to achieve peace without really making peace. It wanted territories and land without establishing open borders or exchanging ambassadors, the foreign minister asserted.

Peres noted that Israel was prepared to maintain economic cooperation with all the countries in the region, with the exception of Iran, which, Peres said, sought to destroy the Middle East.

Syrian, Israeli Academics Reportedly Meet in Oslo

TA2210181893 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Oct 93 p 7

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] Israeli and Syrian academics attended a convention in Oslo approximately two weeks ago, where they discussed, among other things, future security arrangements between Syria and Israel.

The meeting took place with the agreement of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, under the condition that the Israelis would keep the meeting secret. The most senior Syrian figure at the convention was Professor 'Aziz al-Shuqayri, the dean of Damascus University's Law School. A senior lecturer from the university of Aleppo also attended, as well as academics from other Arab countries and former Jordanian Army officers.

The convention was sponsored by a U.S. organization which was set up in order to arrange meetings between Arab and Israeli academics. The Israelis who took part in the meetings were Aharon Levran and Dr. Dori Gold, from the Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, Dr. Yosi Olmert, the former director of the Government Press Office, and reserves Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a.

Professor al-Shuqayri said at the convention that Syria was very interested in taking part in the political process. The professor tried to convince the Israelis that the deal offered by President al-Asad was the best one possible. Professor al-Shuqayri asserted that only President al-Asad, while still in power, was capable of reaching an agreement with Israel.

Al-Shuqayri spoke of a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Although he did not say so explicitly, the Israelis got the impression that Syria would ultimately accept the Egyptian model for peace.

Syria Said To Reject Proposals To Advance Talks

TA2410120193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Oct 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Yerah Tal and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpts] Syria recently rejected several Israeli proposals transmitted via the United States to advance the peace talks between the two countries, including a proposal to launch a secret dialogue, senior political sources said. Among other things Israel proposed to Syria to hold meetings at the foreign ministers level or at lower echelons.

Israel even expressed readiness to hold a summit meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad under the auspices of U.S. President Bill Clinton, but the Syrians have not yet responded to the offer. They have not responded at all to some of the proposals while rejecting others, the sources said.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres attacked Syria in an interview with the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM and claimed that it has adopted a hard-line approach to the peace process. [passage omitted] Peres said that Israel is ready to cooperate and conduct peace talks with all the Arab states, except for Iran, which continues to export revolution and terrorism and constitutes a threat not only to regional peace but to all the Arab states.

Since Peres did not mention Iran and Iraq in the same breath as states with which Israel has reservations about negotiating, political sources in Jerusalem conclude that Israel is ready for such contacts with Iraq. These remarks were made against the background of weekend reports that Iraq has expressed readiness to start contacts with Israel. Minister 'Uzi Bar'am said he does not rule out the possibility that the reports are correct, although he does not know about any Iraqi proposal.

Minister Yosi Sarid said last night that "many proposals, from all sorts of directions, were made to Syria with the aim of advancing the talks with it." Among the proposals were far-reaching offers, such as meetings at the highest level, according to Sarid. The minister continues to stick to his assessment that a peace accord with Syria can be achieved within four months of resuming the talks.

"The moment we start to talk, everything will race ahead and will be concluded quickly." Sarid reiterated criticism of the prime minister and foreign minister for declaring that Israel put the talks with Jordan and the Palestinians at the top of its list of priorities. "Nobody decided on a 'Jordan First' or 'Palestinians First' and 'Syria Last' policy," Sarid said. [passage omitted]

Shahal Calls on al-Asad To Adopt 'Decisive Stand'

JN2410130393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1040 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Report by radio correspondent Shafiq Mansur carried within the "With the Midday Events" program on remarks in Arabic by Israeli Police and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal on 23 October—place not given; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Police and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal has reiterated that the Israeli Government's peaceful policy depends on the land-for-peace principle in accordance with the Labor Party program:

"The Labor Party program on the peace talks is different from that of the Likud Party in terms of its readiness to hold negotiations on the basis of land for peace. The Likud Party calls for peace in exchange for peace. We do not see any alternative to the political solution based on concessions by both parties. On this practical basis, we signed an agreement on principles between Israel and the PLO. We also signed an initial agreement with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Work continues to reach an agreement with the Syrians."

Regarding the talks on the Syrian track, Minister Shahal explained the Israeli stand saying:

"We are ready to sign a peace treaty with Syria based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In other words, we are ready to withdraw the Israeli Defense Force in the Golan Heights to secure and recognized borders. We will not go into the details of this withdrawal as long as we do not know the Syrian response on the meaning of peace. Will it be a diplomatic exchange on ambassadorial level? Will this peace require a government policy that encourages normalization in relations between the Syrian and the Israeli people?

"In my opinion, the current situation needs direct intervention on the highest Syrian levels. President Hafiz al-Asad, who is known for his daring and courage is today called on to take a decisive stand and to give the right answers to pressing questions. Otherwise, the talks will remain below the expected level."

Regarding Lebanon, he said:

"Regarding peace with Lebanon, there is no regional problem between Israel and Lebanon. We are ready to withdraw our forces from Lebanon any moment the Lebanese Government is capable of imposing control over its own territory, taking the initiative, and fighting terrorist acts launched from its territory against us. Lebanon now is incapable of meeting these conditions. Therefore, our forces will remain in southern Lebanon to protect border villages. We have very clearly said that southern Lebanon is Lebanese territory. Our only demands or ambitions are to achieve peace and set up normal and neighborly relations."

'Some 700' Palestinian Prisoners To Be Released

Minister: Release To Begin 25 Oct

TA2410121193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Report from the Prime Minister's Office by Udi Segal—live]

[Excerpts] Emerging from the cabinet meeting a few minutes ago, Minister Shim'on Shetrit revealed that the release of 760 security prisoners will begin tomorrow in accordance with the four categories defined in Taba. As for the release of other categories of prisoners, cabinet ministers said after the meeting that the issue will be decided in the talks of the Gaza-Jericho Committee in Taba slated to begin on Tuesday [26 October].

[Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 24 October carries a related report by Jack Katzenell containing recorded remarks by Police Minister Moshe Shahal on "the concerns voiced in Israel about the fact that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] prisoners might be released." Shahal says: "We are not entertaining this idea. We certainly have limits on those who are going to be released. If there is any danger of continuing terror acts, this is going to be one of the considerations whether to release them or not."]

The controversial issue of kosher meat imports, which threatens to create a coalition crisis, was also raised at the cabinet meeting. Meretz ministers announced that they would categorically oppose any legislation banning the import of nonkosher meat and that any such legislation would run counter to the decision of the High Court of Justice [which ruled on 21 October that Israeli society cannot be forced to observe religious decrees]. Minister Mikha Harish said the government will act in accordance with the High Court ruling—namely, attempt to pass relevant legislation with a 61-vote majority. Rabin has instructed Justice Minister David Liba'i to examine the proposed law at the Ministerial Committee on Legislation and Law Enforcement. [passage omitted]

The National Religious Party and the United Torah Jewry are submitting a motion of no confidence in the government in the wake of the High Court decision permitting the import of nonkosher meat.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad Release Delayed

TA2510055993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Following the murder of the two reserve soldiers by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists in the Gaza Strip yesterday, the defense establishment has decided not to release prisoners and detainees belonging to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad today. This was reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

A discussion held at the defense establishment last night, debating whether the release of all Palestinian prisoners should be withheld in view of the murder, but it has been decided to withhold only the Hamas and Jihad activists. At the same time, the release of the other prisoners will continue according to the plans—in order to avoid a situation in which the opposition to peace dictates actual moves. The release of some 700 Palestinian prisoners, therefore, will begin today. They will leave 10 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Prison Service facilities. They include women, those under 18 or over 50, and those who are ill. The defense establishment stressed that none of them has blood on their hands.

Palestinian, 24, Dies in Nabulus Prison

TA2510094593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Prisoner 'Abd-al-Latif Natur, a 24-year-old resident of Tulkarm who was sentenced to 11 years in prison three years ago, died last night in the Nabulus Prison yesterday. The Prison Service told our correspondent Gil Litman that the prisoner fell ill yesterday, and was hospitalized in the prison clinic. His condition deteriorated last night, and the medical crew's attempts to save him failed. The Prison Service launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death.

Two 'Terrorists' Killed, 2 IDF Wounded in South

TA2410132793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Two terrorists were killed in a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Sujud area in the eastern sector of the south Lebanese security zone this morning. One IDF soldier was critically injured in the clash, while another sustained a very slight injury in ensuing incidents.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that an IDF unit was carrying out operational activities in the Sujud area this morning when it came under short-range gunfire. The unit opened fire at the terrorists, killing two. An IDF soldier, who was gravely wounded in the incident, was evacuated to Rambam Hospital.

At the same time, several salvos of mortar and antitank fire were directed at IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions in the sector. IDF and SLA guns returned fire. The area is quiet at present.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Middle East Policy

TA2510152093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Oct 93 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Don't Rely on the Uncle"]

[Text] Let's suppose that Hafiz al-Asad was to announce today that he, too, deserves a group portrait on the White House lawn—that is, that he was to declare his willingness to implement full peace in accordance with Rabin's interpretation. Let's suppose that after the historic photo session, Bill Clinton was to invite the Syrian president and the Israeli prime minister to talk business at the White House. Business between Israel and Syria means withdrawal and security arrangements. Security arrangements mean sending U.S. troops to a demilitarized Golan Heights, because Clinton himself promised Israel to minimize the risks it undertakes for peace. Secretary of State Christopher was even more specific when he repeatedly said in public that the United States is willing to send an expeditionary force to the Golan Heights.

These remarks were made only a few weeks ago, but this was before U.S. soldiers were withdrawn from Somalia and before a U.S. vessel started helplessly observing Haiti's coastline. Meanwhile, it looks as though little is going to remain of Bosnia if the world relies on the only superpower in the world. More than ever before, the American public prefers its soldiers to remain close to home. The young Mrs. Durant, wife of the U.S. pilot captured in Somalia, was something of a national hero for a couple of days. Until Michael was released from his captivity, U.S. television viewers repeatedly heard her dramatic promise to greet her beloved one with a hearty slice of pizza.

The number of Americans who support U.S. involvement in other countries' troubles dwindles everyday. Congress outspokenly reflects this public mood, both in its Democratic and Republican wings. Clinton uses high-flown language on the U.S. role as the guardian of peace and human rights in the world following the Cold War. Its sorry performance, however, has burdened this administration with a serious confidence crisis both in the United States and abroad.

So what if the United States has promised to bring exiled President Aristide back to Haiti by the end of the month in order to return democracy to the island? Public opinion polls and political advisers dictate Clinton's order of priorities, not the National Security Agency's advisers (reports in Washington indicate that the latter hardly open their mouths in the White House). It is true that during their meeting in Damascus last August, Christopher promised al-Asad that the United States would put the Syrian track high on its list of priorities. Indeed, hardly a day goes by without Clinton and/or Christopher and/or Djerejian declaring that the United States is committed to comprehensive peace in the Middle East, especially peace between Israel and Syria.

The decisive factor is the message they get from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and from Israel's friends in Congress. The Jewish leaders explained to Christopher that Rabin must be allowed to digest the agreement with the PLO. Most of the questions posed by members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to Djerejian following his testimony on the peace process dealt with the Arab boycott and Syria's support for the Palestinian rejectionist organizations. The postponement of the 12th round of peace talks, on the other hand, does not trouble Washington's decisionmakers. None of the committee's members asked Djerejian what his opinion was regarding the ramifications of Syria's abandonment of the peace process or regarding U.S. efforts to isolate Iran (an issue which was highlighted in the testimony given at that session). The veteran diplomat, who is familiar with his political superiors, did not volunteer any assessments of these important issues.

Clinton keeps boasting about the great achievement of the Israel-PLO agreement, mentioning it in one breath with the success in Russia. It so happens that in the only two crises that were resolved in accordance with U.S. foreign policy, the United States played only a marginal role. Against this background it is worthwhile to pay attention to a new nuance emanating from remarks made by Christopher in a closed forum on the Middle East last week. Asked about the possibility of sending a U.S. expeditionary force to the Golan Heights, this time he offered a more cautious reply: "If both sides appeal to us, we will consider this possibility seriously."

The U.S. secretary of state has become convinced that peace between Syria and Israel is attainable. Unfortunately, he is not made of the same stuff as Shim'on Peres, who took the initiative and sold his prime minister a policy which did not coincide with his inclinations and beliefs. There is another problem here: The agreement

with the PLO gave Rabin and his government considerable political credit. Success in implementing the arrangement with the Palestinians could prove to be a long-term asset to Israel's ruling pa*r*ty. Active support for an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement would give Clinton short-term credit which could be offset in the process of the public debate regarding the heavy price the United States would have to pay for this agreement—namely, sending forces overseas.

Conclusion: The public mood in the United States being what it is, we have to say goodbye to the Pax Americana and find a nearer lawn in order to avoid handouts of snapshots.

Iraq's 'Aziz Arrives in Amman En Route to Baghdad

JN2410081893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Amman from Paris yesterday en route to Baghdad following a visit of several days to France, described as being for medical treatment.

Yemeni Minister Arrives With Message

JN2310130193 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Yemeni Minister of Planning and Development has arrived in Amman with a message for His Majesty King Husayn from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

In an arrival statement, Mr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said the message deals with continued Yemeni-Jordanian coordination on various levels.

King Husayn Receives al-Iryani

JN2310165193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al- Iryani, Yemeni planning and development minister, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. Al-Iryani handed his majesty a letter from His Excellency Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Yanal Hikmat, his majesty the king's adviser; and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

Yemen's al-Iryani Departs

JN2310205593 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 23 Oct 93

[From the "News at Ten"]

[Text] His majesty the king received Yemeni Minister of Development and Planning Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, who paid a short visit to the Kingdom today. During the Royal Court audience, the Yemeni presidential envoy handed his majesty a message from the Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Dr. al-Iryani, who left Amman this afternoon, described the letter as part of the ongoing coordination between his majesty the king and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Before he left back to Sanaa, JTV [Jordan television] political correspondent Kassab Samawi asked the Yemeni envoy about his visit to Jordan, and his meeting with his majesty the king.

[Begin al-Iryani recording] I am very happy to have been received by His Majesty King Husayn. I have delivered to him a written message from his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, which deals with the developments that are taking place in our region, which also indicates the great interest of both leaders to make these changes in favor of the interests of the Arab nation. [end recording]

Qatari Amir's Brother Departs Amman After Visit

JN2210183993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the brother of his highness the amir of Qatar, left Amman today following a three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, he met with His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and a number of senior officials. [passage omitted]

Abu-Nuwar on Prince Hasan Meeting With Peres

JN2210153993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has asserted that Jordan has an important role in all that is taking place in the region. In an interview with the London-based Saudi newspaper AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said Jordan is an active political force with a large amount of political clout.

Asked about Jordan's political future in light of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the minister said: There is no need for apprehension or concern. Jordan is a state that has its own entity and recognized official institutions. It is a state with a democratic pattern of government and way of life.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar expressed the belief that the entire region will face political obligations as a result of the very quick recent developments. This will require the establishment of a new Arab order to achieve Arab understanding and fraternity. He stressed the need to realize Arab solidarity and avoid inter-Arab differences and unilateral decisions, especially under these circumstances.

Asked about the meeting in Washington between His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Dr. Abu-Nuwar said: His Highness Prince Hasan's position is an official and legal one. Jordan does not fear negotiating with anyone or demanding its rights anywhere. Moreover, Jordan will not hesitate to support the negotiations march and hold talks publicly.

Asked about the rumors on the settlement in Jordan by the Palestinians residing in Lebanon, the minister said: This information is strange, and no Palestinians will be transferred from any one place to any other place.

Asked about the upcoming parliamentary elections, the minister said: The Jordanian Government is fully prepared to hold free and honest elections. This was stressed by His Majesty King Husayn on several occasions. The government has no interest in siding with any party,

because all candidates are Jordanian citizens, and they are supposed to work for the country's best interests. The government will not intervene in favor of any candidate, he added.

Reasons for Postponing Damascus Meeting Cited

JN2410122093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpts]—The indefinite postponement of a meeting of the Arab Boycott of Israel Office in Damascus scheduled to be held Sunday came after eight Arab countries indicated that they would not attend it, Jordanian officials and Arab diplomatic sources said Saturday.

A senior member of the Jordanian cabinet said the Kingdom was not among the eight, but reiterated that Amman's position on the 45- year-old Arab trade boycott of Israel remained unchanged.

"Our position was made very clear by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan during his visit to Washington" late last month and early this month, said Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs.

After an Oct. 1 meeting at the White House with President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Crown Prince Hasan said it would be "economic suicide" for the Arabs to lift the boycott of Israel without gaining anything in return.

"To those who have said the boycott is economic warfare, I would say removing the boycott is economic suicide," the Crown Prince told an Oct. 2 press conference in Washington.

One of the key themes during last week's Middle East visit by U.S. troubleshooter Dennis Ross was advancing Washington's quest for an end to the boycott.

Dr. al-'Anani said Mr. Ross raised the issue during his talks here Tuesday/Wednesday. The U.S. envoy "explained the American position," Dr. al-'anani said. "The Jordanian position is known to Washington already," he noted.

Addressing a press conference after the talks, Mr. Ross said that Washington viewed "restrictions on economic activity are inconsistent with trying to begin to develop economic cooperation and also trying to foster economic development itself."

Dr. al-'Anani told the Jordan Times Saturday that Washington had raised "various ideas and avenues" of ending the boycott. He declined to elaborate.

Arab diplomats said Washington had informed some of its Arab allies in the Gulf region and North Africa that a meeting of the Arab Boycott Office at this point in time would not be helpful to the two-year-old Middle East peace process.

"The idea was that the (Oct. 24) Damascus meeting would have led to a hardening of the Arab stand at a time when Washington was seeking a softening," said a senior Arab diplomat in Amman.

The diplomat was referring to expectations that countries like host Syria, whose media have called for stricter enforcement of the embargo, Libya, which opposes the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord and insists that the Arab League adopt a ban on all Arab contacts with Israel, and Sudan, another critic of the Middle East peace process, would have pushed for adding more international firms to the boycott list during Sunday's meeting.

Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of State for Near Eastern affairs, indicated during a hearing before a House of Representatives sub-committee on Friday that Washington could have been instrumental in the postponment of the meeting. [passage omitted]

The Arab League members which opposed Sunday's meeting of the boycott office were believed to be the PLO, Egypt and the six Gulf states grouped in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Egypt, which has signed the Arab World's only peace treaty with Israel, no longer enforces the boycott while the Gulf states have relaxed their adherence to the embargo.

The PLO, which signed a historic accord with Israel on Sept. 13 on self-rule for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, has said that while it will not advocate an immediate end to the embargo it would not support tightening it either.

U.S. 'Pressure' To End Boycott Scored

JN2410114793 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 24 Oct 93 p 22

["Highlights" column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "The Arab Boycott of Israel"]

[Text] The United States is still putting strong pressure on the Arab regimes to secure an early lifting of the Arab economic boycott of Israel, 43 years after this boycott was imposed in 1950 in order to isolate Israel and force it to recognize the legitimate Arab rights.

It seems that the U.S. pressures have borne some fruit. In Damascus, it was announced that the meeting of the Arab Bureau for Boycotting Israel, scheduled to be held on 24 October 1993, was postponed indefinitely. The meeting was supposed to add new Western companies to the blacklist for violating the boycott rules.

It is strange that the United States, which considers the Arab boycott of Israel as inappropriate, is itself practicing an economic boycott against a large number of countries that pose no threat to it, do not occupy its territories, usurp its rights, or steal its water, such as Vietnam, Cuba, Iraq, and others.

The Arab boycott of Israel is not an objective, but an Arab political instrument that is used against aggression. It is also a an important Arab card in the peace process that should not be relinquished except in return for Israel's withdrawal from the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese territories and before its acceptance of international legitimacy.

Even if the PLO accepts lifting the political and economic boycott of Israel and signs an agreement on economic cooperation and mutual openness, the Arab countries bordering Israel have their own reasons to continue the boycott until comprehensive and just peace is attained.

Before pressuring Jordan to lift the boycott, the United States should pressure Israel to lift the boycott imposed on Jordan, which is prohibited from exporting its products not only to Israel, but also to the occupied West Bank.

Furthermore, Israel imposes a boycott against Palestinian products in the occupied territories and bans them from reaching the Israeli markets. At the same time, it views the Palestinian market as a captive market for Israeli products.

Ending the Arab boycott of Israel before ending the Israeli boycott of the Arabs, before an Israeli withdrawal from the territories of four Arab states, before recognizing Arab sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza Strip including Jerusalem, and before lifting the siege imposed on Iraq and Libya, is a concession that no Arab regime dares to give unless this regime is associated with the United States and is willing to appease it.

Jordan's conditions for ending the boycott are: Withdrawal from the occupied Jordanian territories in the north and south, obtaining its rights to the waters of the Jordan River, ending the trade boycott against Jordan, and the signing of comprehensive peace agreements that meet the just Arab demands.

End of Israeli Radio 'Propaganda' Viewed

JN2310121493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Oct 93 p 28

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "... So Far"]

[Text] The halting of political commentaries by Israeli radio does not at all mean that the radio has stopped its propaganda for its Arab audience. We venture to say without any cynicism that the radio stopped these comments because certain active Arab schools of thought have begun to adopt the Israeli propaganda line and have become more convincing than "the Voice of Israel." These schools of thought represent an internal Arab dialogue, with its tools and circles. Certain "Arab" voices with a rational, leftist ideological history are now echoing the Israeli propaganda voice.

Before it announced its move, "the Voice of Israel" cited with great enthusiasm an article by "the great Kuwaiti journalist 'Abd- al-Rahman al-Rashid" in which he says that if the Arabs want to weaken Israel they should open their markets to and purchase Israeli products, because this will transform the Jews, who love money, into tools to pressure the Israeli government into offering the required concessions for peace.

Such a crude argument is not a novelty. Its basis and aims are also well-known. We have read similar arguments by a number of veteran leftist Egyptians about "Israel, which will be the size of Guatemala or the size of Thailand at best, if it becomes an ordinary state in the region."

Naturally, the ordinary state eventually means a state acceptable in the region with all its aggressiveness, a state to which we will open our markets and which will send ambassadors to our capitals, and with which we cooperate in the field of water, industry, agriculture, and tourism, and which we might accept into the Arab League and the Collective Arab Defense Pact.

Some "realists" say: "If the Palestinians accept all this, why should we try to be more patriotic than they are? If the Palestinian problem is solved, what will be left for us to differ about?" This argument also takes the same direction.

Our argument is as follows: If we take the above arguments at their face value, we say that these people do not know the structure of the Jewish state, its real size, the type of its economy, and its interconnection with the international economic powers. They are unaware of the Israeli role in the region.

The Jew is no longer represented by the picture drawn for him by Shakespeare or by what we have in our minds. He is the lord of finance in Europe who has returned to Palestine not to establish banks but to establish collective farms binding him, the Berliners, the Viennese, and the Parisians to the land, because the struggle is over land.

The Jewish state was not established because of the oppression of the Jews in Europe. The Basel conference preceded the Russian pogroms and the German Holocaust. Reading Herzl's letters to the German emperor, the Ottoman sultan, and the British prime minister, we realize the size of the Israeli dream and tasks in the region. The Zionist leaderships are working to establish an extension of the Western Judeo-Christian civilization in the east. It [Israel] is without borders because it is a state of invasion and expansion. It is a permanent assault force because it is an extraordinary state amid ordinary, or more than ordinary, states.

The writer who talks about an ordinary state believes that hundreds of millions of Arabs would swallow the Zionist millions. Therefore, he talks about a Guatemala, or at best a Thailand. He is not aware that while the Egyptian's contribution to national exports does not exceed $20 annually, an Israeli citizen's contribution is $2,000; that the Israeli military force is equal to that of France, and that Israel has 11 million ambassadors, spies, financiers, and company representatives in the world.

It is a long story, but it seems that we have learned nothing from our struggle with Zionism over the past century. The stupidity remains as it has always been and the spirit of defeatism continues to fill our minds and hearts.

Al-Majali Departs for UNESCO Meeting in France

JN2310172393 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Amman, 23 Oct (PETRA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali left Amman for France this morning on a four-day visit. During the visit, he will attend the meetings of the UNESCO general conference, which will begin in Paris tomorrow, Sunday.

In a press statement to the Jordanian News Agency and Jordanian television, Dr. al-Majali said he will deliver a general speech before the conference dealing with the issue of peace. However, the minister of education and higher education, who heads the Jordanian delegation to this conference, will deliver Jordan's speech.

The prime minister added: I was invited to deliver a speech at this conference because I led the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks. This is a very important matter for UNESCO, because the call for peace was one of the basic principles on which UNESCO was established. This will be a good opportunity for the participants in this conference to hear the Jordanian viewpoint on the issue of peace.

Asked about the possibility of meeting with senior French officials during this visit, the prime minister said: Although this visit is to attend the UNESCO's general conference, I will seize this opportunity to hold contacts with French officials. There will probably be arrangements to meet with French officials on the highest level in order to discuss bilateral issues with them. The issue of peace will also be discussed. Meetings and contacts will also be held with several Arab and foreign education ministers participating in the conference in order to exchange views. This is beneficial for us and for the peace process.

Regarding the preparations for parliamentary elections, Dr. al- Majali said: The campaigning is going extremely quickly. We hope this acceleration will not lead to pitfalls, because acceleration always carries some risks that one may not be aware of. No doubt, this acceleration can be steered toward the positive.

The prime minister explained that the citizens are registering their names for voting in an excellent way. More than 500,000 election cards were distributed in five days, which is good. He urged the citizens and the state employees to cast their votes in a good and intensive manner because the more people who cast their votes in the elections the more representative of people's viewpoint the new House of Representatives will be, which is an extremely important matter.

He added: Fortunately, most slogans of those running for the House are vigilant, moderate, sensible, and contain wisdom and hope for the future. I think most slogans look forward to the future and are not derived from the past. We clearly note this in the electoral statements published in newspapers or in the slogans raised by the brother candidates. [passage omitted].

Team on Water Talks Departs for Beijing

JN2410171493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Oct 93 p 25

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Excerpts] Amman—The Jordanian delegation to the fourth meeting of the working group on water, which came out of the multilateral peace negotiations, left Amman for Beijing yesterday and is due to arrive today. The U.S. sponsored two-day meeting is scheduled to begin its official work on Tuesday.

The Jordanian delegation is headed by Dr. Mundhir Haddadin and includes as its members Dr. Mahmud al-Duwayri, director of the research and technology transfer center of the Ministry of Agriculture; Engineer Muhammad Zafir al-'Alim, assistant secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority; and 'Ali al-Ghizawi, adviser to the minister of water and irrigation. [passage omitted]

In a predeparture statement to AL-RA'Y on Jordan's role in the Beijing meetings, Dr. Haddadin said: The fourth round of the working group on water is a result of a breakthrough in bilateral talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track represented by the signing of the declaration of principles, by a mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, and by the signing of the joint agenda agreement on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

Dr. Haddadin added: Undoubtedly, the breakthrough will positively influence the multilateral talks.

He pointed out that Jordan's delegation is leaving for Beijing, carrying ideas, which may be approved by most participants because they deal with future regional cooperation, as well as other ideas that will increase water resources in regions where water is scarce. We, he added, submitted proposals for the agenda, as well as six working papers, to the Washington meetings. Other delegations followed suit during the subsequent round.

Dr. Haddadin explained that Jordan's proposals centered on the state of affairs in Jordan in light of the working group's agenda and reviewed alternatives to increase the quantity of water in states where it is scarce. The proposals also call for launching major regional projects to provide water and desalinate subterranean and sea water. But all these projects, he said, need effort and capital. [passage omitted]

Government Campaign Against IAF in Election Seen

JN2410123193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 93 pp 1,10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Excerpt] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) has protested to Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali what it alleges are government actions aimed at limiting its chances of winning seats in the next parliamentary elections on Nov. 8, but the meeting did little to narrow the gap between the two sides, IAF Secretary general Ishaq al-Farhan said Saturday.

At a meeting with Dr. al-Majali Thursday, the IAF protested the transfer of "tens" of civil servants who support the front from their places of work to other governorates and a Ministry of Interior ban on holding public rallies, according to Dr. al-Farhan.

He said the prime minister gave him no assurances that the government would stop what the front claims are measures targetting it.

Sources told the Jordan Times that Dr. al-Majali stood firm against the IAF protests and reiterated government statements that his Cabinet is acting within the limits of the law.

Dr. al-Farhan said the IAF is growing more "uneasy" with the alleged government campaign against it.

"The government is intensifying this campaign step by step. We feel uneasy about the whole situation," Dr. al-Farhan said.

Similar charges against the government were Saturday levelled by two leftist parties.

The leftist Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party and the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, who also charged that the government's actions have given reason to doubt that the elections will be conducted freely and fairly.

Dr. al-Farhan said the government over the last few days "arbitrarily" transferred tens of civil servants who support it from their places of work in different governorates to other areas in the country in what he described as an attempt to weaken the front's performance in the elections.

Eleven supporters of the front employed by the Ministry of Education in al-Tafilah were earlier last week transferred to other governorates in what the government insists is a legal procedure justified by the law which says government employees should not be involved in election campaigns.

The transfer of the employees was carried out in accordance with "article 64 of the Election Law which states... that government public institutions and local authorities employees are banned from campaigning for any candidate," Minister of Interior Salamah Hammad Thursday told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Dr. al-Farhan said the front strongly differs with the government's interpretaton of the law that civil servants' political activities should be restricted to casting their votes.

Though he alleges the front has been done "a great injustice" by the government, Dr. al-Farhan said the "government's pressure on the front is still tolerable." However, he said, the front, the largest organised political group in the Kingdom, will reconsider its decision to contest the polls if the government forces confrontation upon it.

"We still believe that the only assurance (that the elections will be fair) is the pledge of His Majesty," Dr. al-Farhan said.

Dr. al-Farhan also cited the government's rejection to grant the front permission to hold campaigning rallies as an example of the government's effort to limit the front.

Dr. al-Farhan said the front will not compromise its right to present its views to the voters through public meetings and rallies and will look for ways to go around the ban.

"We will hold meetings but will not call them rallies," he said. [passage omitted]

Buwayz, Iranian Envoy Discuss Regional Issues

LD2210183193 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Beirut, Oct 22 (IRNA)—Iran's Charge d'Affaires to Beirut Homayun Alizadeh and Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in their meeting here Friday [22 October] reviewed regional issues and topics of mutual interest.

In a subsequent meeting with the press here today the Iranian envoy told reporters that disarmament of the struggling groups cannot possibly take effect without first ending the occupation of lands by the Zionist regime.

Asked to comment on Iran-Saudi relations he said that Tehran and Riyadh have long since maintained continual contact as a result of Iran's emphasis on regional cooperation.

He also expressed hope that a number of Iranians among them the one-time charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, who were taken hostage in 1982 would be released by their abductors.

The Iranian charge d'affaires said the Hizbullah is an inseparable part of the people of Lebanon that has been doing according to its responsibilities, with a weighty presence at the political scene in Lebanon.

Envoy Comments on Hizballah

NC2210194893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] After his meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this morning, Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Homayun 'Alizadeh [title as heard] said the Lebanese Government, the Lebanese people, and the Lebanese resistance are determined to carry on the struggle until they liberate their land and until Israel withdraws from Lebanese territory. 'Alizadeh added: We consider this wise stand compatible with the spirit of national unity in Lebanon.

Asked about the future of Hizballah, 'Alizadeh said: Hizballah is part of the Lebanese people. It is doing its duty to liberate the land and confront the occupation forces.

Interior Minister Mirhij Leaves For Damascus

NC2310133793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij left for Damascus this morning for talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and other Syrian officials.

Al-Hariri Leaves for Damascus 'Consultations'

NC2310181093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The domestic situation in Lebanon and the developments in the peace process after the visit by U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross required a visit to Damascus by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today for further coordination and consultations.

Al-Hariri left for the Syrian capital this afternoon. He will meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and a number of Syrian officials before returning to Beirut tomorrow.

Al-Hariri Returns 24 Oct

NC2410203493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut this afternoon from Damascus after holding talks there with ranking Syrian officials. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Hariri held a meeting today with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam attended by Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri. The meeting lasted one and a half hours during which they reviewed the situation in Lebanon and the region.

A meeting was held last night in Damascus attended by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Speaker Nabih Birri, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. During the meeting they reviewed the political situation and peace process developments.

PSP's Junblatt Meets U.S. Charge d'Affaires

NC2310134793 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Minister Walid Junblatt met in al-Mukhtarah Palace the U.S. Charge d'Affaires Vincent Battle, who was accompanied by Political Counselor David Hale. The meeting was attended by PSP Secretary General Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad and Ghazi al-'Aridi, political adviser to the PSP leader. Mr. Junblatt gave a luncheon in honor of the U.S. diplomat.

This morning, Battle visited the headquarters of the Health Institute for the Druze in ('Ayn al-Zayn) and met with members of the board, the medical committee, and officials of the institute. He toured various parts of the institute. Battle presented the institute with $20,000 in aid to buy some equipment.

The U.S. charge d'affaires and embassy political counselor visited Niha at noon, where they met with Druze religious leader Shaykh Bahjat Ghayth and reviewed new developments in the region.

Toxic Waste Said Arriving From Europe

NC2310090393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0806 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Beirut, 23 Oct (MENA)—The Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR today reveals that toxic waste is being shipped from Europe to Lebanon.

Citing a Greenpeace report, the paper says toxic waste has been shipped from Germany and received by a Lebanese company for disposal in Lebanon.

An environmental expert in Lebanon expects shipments of this kind to arrive there every three months. The Environment Ministry has promised to investigate the shipment of toxic waste to Lebanon.

Israeli, Resistance Activities in South Reported

NC2310175893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Dispatch by NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent 'Ali Dawud from al-Nabatiyah—recorded]

[Text] At around 1630 this afternoon the occupation forces' artillery positioned in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah shelled the approaches to Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, Mazra'at al-Hamra', and the al-Litani River basin with 120-mm mortar shells. The shelling, which went on for one hour, increased and decreased throughout. It was accompanied by a raking operation on the al-Litani basin and the outskirts of the already mentioned towns with heavy-caliber machine guns. At the same time, helicopters intervened at 1645 and raked the al-Litani basin with machine-gun fire.

This afternoon the occupation forces shelled the al-Litani River basin, al-Jabal al-Akhdar, Jarju', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, al-Luwayzah, and Jabal al-Rayhan in Iqlim al-Tuffah using field artillery from their positions in al-Zaffatah. The occupation forces directed their machine guns toward the 'Arab Salim-Jarju' triangle while two helicopters raked the areas of al-Jabal al-Akhdar and Jabal al- Rayhan using machine guns.

The Islamic Resistance announced in a statement this afternoon that one of its groups attacked a joint Israeli-Lahdist patrol while it was going along the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah road. The statement said that an Israeli tank burned as a result of this attack, and that everyone inside it either died or was injured. The Resistance earlier announced that this afternoon one of its groups set an ambush for a Lahdist foot patrol on the road to al-Suwayda'. The Resistance men clashed with Lahdist patrolmen killing two Lahdist men and injuring the others.

Two SLA Posts Hit; 'Violent' Shelling

NC2410084993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Resistance men attacked a South Lebanese Army [SLA] post on Sujud Hill at 0900 today, using mortars and machine guns.

The Islamic resistance said its fighters destroyed two SLA positions, including Sujud. There are no reports on casualties.

Our correspondent reports that the Israeli forces violently shelled Jarju', al-Luwayzah, Jba', and 'Ayn Bu Siwar villages and that two Israeli helicopters strafed Iqlim al-Tuffah valleys. The shelling is still going on.

[In a related report, the clandestine Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon at 0800 GMT on 24 Oct says: "Our correspondent reports that Sujud and Kafr Rumman posts came under terrorists' bombardment. The South Lebanese and Israeli armies' artillery returned fire with appropriate weapons."]

Clashes in South, Casualties Updated

NC2410111093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] The Islamic resistance issued a statement today in which it said that on the occasion of the birthday of the Prophet's daughter Zaynab and the passage of 40 days since the 13 September massacre, a group of the Islamic resistance carried out an operation against an occupation forces patrol at 0855 today. The patrol consisted of two M-113 Armored Personnel Carriers and a Merkava tank escorted by an infantry unit. Another resistance group attacked the Bi'r Kallab position, while a third group bombarded the occupation and agents position at al-Rayhan.

Clashes broke out between the resistance fighters and the occupation troops, in which Israeli helicopters and tanks were involved. The statement said that 20 enemy troops were either killed or wounded during the fighting.

Resistance on 24 Oct Operations

NC2510074193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] On the birth anniversary of Zaynab [Prophet Muhammad's daughter], peace be upon her, at 0854 yesterday the Martyr al-Hajj Hasan Shirri squad of the Islamic Resistance, attacked an Israeli patrol consisting of two M-113 vehicles and a Merkava tank as they passed along the Sujud-al-Rayhan road. The Martyr Hasan Qansu group assaulted one of the two vehicles while the Martyr 'Abbud 'Abbud group assaulted the other vehicle, and the Martyr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim group attacked the tank. The Islamic Resistance has released a statement on the operation, adding that meanwhile the Hasan Bazzah group assaulted a foot patrol, precipitating a fierce clash. Meanwhile, the Martyr 'Ali al-Tawil group attacked the Sujud position and the Martyr Mustafa Shamas group attacked the Bi'r Kallab post. Simultaneously, the Martyrs Sabah Haydar and Sukna Shams-al-Din groups attacked the Israeli barracks and the South Lebanese Army barracks at al-Rayhan with the appropriate weapons.

According to an initial count, 20 Zionist soldiers were killed or injured and one tank, two RED trucks, and a bulldozer were destroyed at the Sujud position. One Islamic martyr fell during these heroic operations.

The statement renewed the pledge to the leader of the Islamic nation, Khamene'i, may God preserve him and the pure martyrs, that it will follow the path of struggle whatever the sacrifices.

After these heroic operations by the Islamic Resistance fighters against the occupation forces and patrols in the occupied border strip, the Islamic Resistance heroes carried out another operation against Zionist positions on Jabal Basil yesterday afternoon. The Resistance men attacked the position with 82-mm mortar fire and heavy machine guns.

Mufti Qabalan Supports Jazzin-First Proposal

NC2310180993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan today voiced support for the Jazzin-First proposal. He said: We support the implementation of Resolution 425. But why do we not give a break to the villages neighboring the positions of the Israeli enemy that are shelled on a daily basis? He added: If the Israeli withdrawal cannot be implemented except through scheduled sections, then I support this proposal. I want to liberate the residents of the mountain before the people in Jerusalem.

UK's Foreign Secretary Arrives 22 Oct for Visit

Britain Interested in 'Durable Peace'

JN2210213793 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus at 2145 today on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in London, the British ambassador in Damascus, and the British Embassy staff.

Hurd made a statement to the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, correspondent. He said: I am very pleased to be here. I have not been to Syria since 1979, and I am grateful to both the Syrian Government and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' for inviting me to visit Syria.

Hurd added: I believe that this is an opportune time for my visit. Syria is an important state in the Middle East, and it is a very important state at this particular time. We all hope that peace and justice will be achieved in the region.

Hurd pointed out that he looks forward to hearing the views of the Syrian officials, led by President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: I hope that my modest visit will help realize the understanding we need, so the peace process can reach a successful end.

Replying to a question on whether he carries any initiative with him, Hurd said that he will not answer any questions related to the substance of the peace process. However, he said he does not carry any British plan, and there are many parties that are extending help on this issue. He added: I am not here as a mediator but as a friend who has good intentions and as a representative of Britain, which is interested in a durable peace. Durable peace means a just peace in the Middle East.

Official Talks Held 23 Oct

JN2310142993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his accompanying delegation at 1315 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syria's Ambassador in London Muhammad Khudur, and Britain's ambassador in Damascus.

A session of official talks was held between the Syrian side, led by al-Shar', and the British side, led by Hurd. The session was attended by Yusuf Shakkur, the assistant foreign minister; Muhammad Khudur, the Syrian ambassador in London; Muwaffaq Nassar, head of the Western Europe desk; Andrew Green, the British ambassador in Damascus; and Michael (Thurton), the British Foreign Ministry assistant under-secretary.

Talks covered the peace process in light of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. In this respect, Douglas Hurd said Britain supports a comprehensive and just peace in the region. Talks also dealt with the situation in southern Lebanon, developments in the Gulf, and means to develop and reinforce bilateral relations in all fields.

Hurd extended an official invitation to Faruq al-Shar' to visit Britain. The date of this visit will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

UK's 'Active Role' Welcomed

JN2310170693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his accompanying delegation at 1315 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syria's Ambassador in London Muhammad Khudur, and Britain's ambassador in Damascus.

Talks dealt with bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process. Hurd expressed his satisfaction with the developing bilateral relations and the talks he held in Damascus. He also expressed Britain's interest in assisting the Middle East peace process and its belief that a solution in the region should be comprehensive. He said he understands Syria's stand, which adheres to the bases of the peace initiative and a just and comprehensive solution.

The president welcomed Britain's willingness to play an active role in order to reach a just and comprehensive solution. He also expressed his satisfaction with the steps taken so far in the field of bilateral relations and developing these relations to serve the interests of both countries.

Hurd Holds News Conference

JN2310183493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Damascus, 23 Oct (SANA)—Douglas Hurd, secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, held a news conference this evening, attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies, international television networks, a number of Syrian media and press officials, and the media delegation accompanying Hurd.

At the beginning of the news conference, Hurd voiced his gratitude to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government, as well as his happiness over his visit to Syria, which is the first visit since 1979.

Hurd said his talks in Damascus today were held in a very cordial atmosphere.

Hurd pointed out that his talks with Syrian officials centered on the peace process and regional issues, and said that the aim of the peace process was to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region and that this required Syria's involvement and positions as it is a major state in the region.

He added that during his talks, stress was placed on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, as well as peace prospects from now on.

Hurd also said: I have acquainted myself with Syria's position, its commitment to the peace process, and its view on this process based on the principle of total withdrawal in exchange for total peace.

He added that Britain has no desire to complicate the U.S. initiative it has supported but wants to help in any way. He said: I have offered this and Syria has accepted it, and we will remain in constant touch from now on.

Hurd also expressed his belief that the peace process will continue, that it will receive the necessary approvals of the parties involved, and that undoubtedly, there is still much to do.

He noted that progress achieved in the peace process over the past few months will continue until success is achieved. This is what concerns Britain, which will do everything possible to serve this objective.

Hurd said that during his meetings with al-Shar' this morning, he found there were a lot of things that could be discussed. Therefore, the two sides decided to expedite political dialogue and repeat such meetings once a year in order to hold expanded discussions on many regional, world, and bilateral issues.

Hurd added: In terms of bilateral relations, President al-Asad and the foreign minister reaffirmed that we should establish bilateral relations. We talked about the bridge of confidence between us that we have already started. I support such a step since confidence is like a slowly blossoming flower. This confidence between us will grow and there are many practical opportunities between us.

Asked if there was any progress that should push the peace process forward, Hurd said he hoped that there will be persistent efforts that can push the peace process forward. He added that Syria emphasized its commitment to the bilateral talks despite the worry that the Israeli side does not have a similar commitment. This worry should be removed so that the parties sense the seriousness of the other parties. Only then can the peace talks continue until an agreement is finally achieved and in this case, there is no turning back on the commitment to the peace process.

In reply to a question on Britain's role within the framework of the European role, Hurd said that Britain does not have the desire to complicate the initiative launched by the United States. What he felt today is that the U.S. role is acceptable, which confirms Britain's view that its role and that of Europe should be to push the peace process forward and not to create a new initiative.

He added that what he means by pushing the peace process forward is to understand the difficulties that could arise from time to time during the efforts being exerted so that Britain can help those facing these difficulties to overcome them. Of course, he said, Britain will do so through close consultations with the U.S. Administration. Hurd added: Two days ago, I held a lengthy discussion with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who told me about the talks that Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace talks, held in Damascus.

He referred to the existing ties of bilateral cooperation and friendship between Syria and Britain, which manifest themselves in the trade relations that are far less than what is desired. He said: British exports have increased by 30 percent over last year and the year before it and have increased this year as well [sentence as received]. We discussed exchanging trade delegations.

Mr. Hurd said: As for the teaching of the English language, prospects for cooperation in this area are wide. Today, I visited the British Center for the Teaching of English, which is run by the British Consulate. The center was recently inaugurated by the minister of culture. The number of students who applied for learning English was more than expected. This has encouraged us to open a similar center in Aleppo. This was warmly welcomed by Mr. Al-Shar' today. This is evidence of the growing importance and success of the teaching of the English language under the administration of the British Consulate, which is its legitimate sponsor. Of course, English is spoken by others, but we were the first to speak it and we are the best to teach it.

In response to a question on bilateral relations between Syria and Britain, Mr. Hurd said: These relations are strong and growing. They needed a long time to grow. There was a background of differences and mutual distrust, which is now being gradually overcome. As I said before, trust is a slow-growing plant, but it does grow. The British ambassador in Damascus gave me many examples of this growth. I have already pointed out an improvement in trade figures and the teaching of the English language. I also recalled the political dialogue between us. These are three examples.

In response to a question, Mr. Hurd said that the negotiations are based on full peace in return for full withdrawal. This is a Syrian commitment. But as for how this will materialize, this depends on how the negotiations will go.

In response to question on how far the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will influence the Syrian track, Mr. Hurd said: Syria has made its stand on this agreement clear. It differs from Britain's stand. We unreservedly welcome the Israeli-PLO deal, which we do not believe to be a comprehensive settlement. A comprehensive agreement must include agreements that guarantee progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

He said: I believe that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is a step forward, but the Syrians have another opinion. They believe that the agreement contains flaws and shortcomings. However, they do not oppose it and do

not seek to undermine it. This is a general principle, which they reaffirmed today.

In reply to a question on whether there is a formula for the resumption of the negotiations between Syria and Israel and whether these negotiations will be held in Washington, Mr. Hurd said: All I can say is that the Syrians believe that the negotiations should continue within the current framework. They believe it is the fruitful and possible avenue for moving forward.

In reply to a question on Britain's role in enhancing the mutual understanding of peace, Mr. Hurd said that both parties need to talk to each other through the framework they had agreed on and to focus on comprehensive peace. Syria is interested in achieving complete withdrawal and Israel is interested in comprehensive peace and every party should show some kind of flexibility concerning the definition of every paragraph. They have to resume negotiations as soon as possible for the sake of continuity. The negotiations are not new ones. They should resume and should not last forever. We speak about months. If many months or years pass and we hold a news conference then to find that the situation has remained as it is now, then this will be bad news. This cannot last forever. It should only take a few months and not many months because we should see progress achieved in the right direction.

In reply to a question on the seriousness of the Syrian side in realizing progress in the peace process, Mr. Hurd said that the Syrians are serious about attaining peace, and that he had previously said this. He added that the Syrians wish to achieve progress and that Britain is certain that Syria is committed to the peace process. He said he hopes the peace process will bring about the required progress.

In reply to a question on whether he has discussed other topics, Mr. Hurd said that the focal point of his visit specifically dealt with the peace process in the Middle East.

On how Britain believes the bilateral negotiations could achieve progress, Mr. Hurd said that the bilateral negotiations should resume as soon as possible to analyze the concept of comprehensive peace in exchange for complete withdrawal and to reach agreement on this.

Mr. Hurd and the delegation accompanying him this evening toured several old areas in Damascus and visited historical sites and antiquities in the city that show the greatness and ancient character of the city.

Hurd will also visit other historical sites before he leaves for London tomorrow.

Hurd Warns Against Delay in Talks

JN2410081093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] In a statement to the Radio London correspondent in Damascus, Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, has affirmed that it is impossible to complete the Middle East peace process without Syria. He added that his country is doing its utmost to advance the peace process.

Hurd expressed the belief that the peace talks must be resumed as soon as possible. He maintained, however, that it would be useless to resume the talks unless there is a likelihood of progress in the peace process. Hurd underscored that the concept of complete withdrawal in exchange for comprehensive peace is a sound one.

The British secretary added: It is not clear what the risks would be if there were a delay in the peace talks. If a month passes without a resumption of the talks, I believe that the course of events will begin to deteriorate and become serious, and that there will be complications. However, he added: We support what the United States is attempting to do. I am in close touch with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in this regard.

Hurd Makes Statement, Departs Damascus

JN2410174693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this evening following a three-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in London, the British ambassador in Damascus, and British Embassy staff.

Hurd made a statement to the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, correspondent. He said: When I arrived in Damascus, I said that I came as a friend. Now, I am leaving as a close friend because I have had a good time in your country. I am grateful to President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' for the welcome and hospitality I was accorded.

Hurd explained that he now has a very clear idea about Syrian views and policy and that there was agreement on many issues. But as for the issues on which we did not reach full agreement during our talks, we agreed to continue the dialogue and to meet at least once every year, he said. I will be very pleased to do so. There are many common denominators between our two countries, and we intend to establish our future relations on these denominators, Hurd pointed out.

Al-Hariri: Lebanese-Syrian Interests 'Intertwined'

NC2410174493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Before leaving Damascus for Beirut this afternoon, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said his quick visit to Syria was part of the coordination between the two countries on all issues. He affirmed that the Lebanese and Syrian stances on the peace process are based on concern for the two countries' intertwined interests.

They are also based on concern for the peace process and the need for this process to succeed in establishing a just and comprehensive peace that will bring security and stability to the region.

Prime Minister al-Hariri said that the stances of Lebanon and Syria are well understood by most countries because those stances derive their strength from UN and international community resolutions.

Ambassador to Iran Views PLO-Israeli Accord

NC2210121993 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] Hamadan—RESALAT correspondent: In an exclusive interview with RESALAT, Syrian Ambassador to Iran Ahmad al-Hasan described the PLO as the biggest traitor to the Palestinian nation and said: Yasir 'Arafat's treacherous compromise with Israel is a repetition of Camp David on a larger scale.

He added: The decisions that were adopted on Palestine's future during the Madrid Conference, which was held behind closed doors, had a bad impact on the Palestinian people and hindered the Arab League up to a point, and now Yasir 'Arafat has signed this disgraceful accord and roused a great deal of hatred in the hearts of the combatant Palestinians and of the Muslim ummah in other parts of the world as well.

Commenting on the Syrian Government's stance on this compromise, the Syrian ambassador said: The Muslim government and nation of Syria have repeatedly expressed their hatred for the PLO's compromise with Israel and have rejected it.

He added: Mr. Hafiz al-Asad has repeatedly stated that it is the Palestinian nation that should decide, and that the Syrian Government and people will never stop supporting the Palestinian nation. As long as Israel exists in the world, it will be considered the enemy of all the Muslims of the world. However, since the PLO is the official representative of the Palestinian nation, we should see what that nation itself will decide to do.

He also pointed out: We are the defenders of the Palestinian nation's aspirations in the confrontation against the aggressor, Israel.

The Syrian ambassador stated: We believe that the Arabs should be united so that Israel will not be able to confront them. He added: When we are not united, Israel will be able to use various ploys to confront each Arab and Muslim country alone. But if the unity and uniformity of the Arabs are preserved, Israel will be 100 percent destroyed.

He continued: We should reach a collective agreement concerning Arab unity.

The Syrian ambassador added: Syria believes that a general decision on this should be adopted by the Muslim countries.

In answer to a question by our correspondent about the West's onslaught against the traditional Muslim culture, the Syrian ambassador stated: If the Muslims of the world pay more attention to their Islamic culture, no decadent foreign culture will be able to undermine their rich culture.

He recalled: We should understand our cultural heritage and our lofty values and resist foreign onslaughts. He stressed: We should acquaint our children with Islamic principles and preserve our priceless values; and by relying on Islam, we will be safe from any type of onslaught.

In conclusion, the Syrian ambassador described his and the other embassy members' visit [to Hamadan] as very useful and said: We did not expect Hamadan to be so beautiful and full of so many historic monuments. We are happy to be among our friendly and fraternal nation Iran and are proud of this fraternity.

Afghanistan

Two Afghan Aid Workers Killed in Kabul

NC2310153193 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Kabul, Oct 23 (AFP)—Two Afghan aid workers have been shot dead, Kaddos Saad al-Din [name as received], political affairs advisor for the Afghan Aid Organisation (AAO), said Saturday.

The victims were a director and a guard at the AAO office in northern Kabul, Kaddos told AFP. Authorities declined to name the victims or give the exact date of the murders.

"This is the first crime of this type in the history of our organisation," Kaddos said.

"Political motives may be behind the killings," he said. "Some political parties do not want to see non-governmental organisations transferring their services from northern Peshawar to Kabul."

Kaddos called for the posting of armed guards from the state security department to prevent similar violence.

The AAO, set up in 1983 and funded by the U.S., Britain and the European Community, organises agricultural and engineering projects throughout Afghanistan.

Most of its 150-member staff are Afghan but two are from the U.S. and three from Britain.

Natural Gas Accord Signed With Tajikistan

LD2310120593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Central News Unit reports from Kabul that Afghanistan has signed a natural gas export agreement with Tajikistan.

According to a report by Kabul television, the agreement, which concerns natural gas from the Balkh province, was signed by the Afghan mines and industries minister and the Tajik economic minister. The same report says that the amount of gas in question used to be transferred to Russia during the occupation of Afghanistan.

India

Situation Surrounding Hazratbal Mosque Updated

'At Least 31' Killed

BK2210152793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1513 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Report by Surinder Oberoi and Izhar Wani]

[Text] Srinagar, India, Oct 22 (AFP)—Indian troops shot dead at least 31 people in Kashmir on Friday when they fired into crowds of angry Moslems marching on the besieged Hazratbal mosque, police and hospital sources said.

Twenty-four demonstrators were shot dead in the town of Bijbihar, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of here, while seven people died during day-long anti-Indian protests which rocked this Kashmir summer capital.

A total of more than 200 people were injured as police used clubs, tear gas and live ammunition to disperse demonstrators who defied a curfew and attempted to march on the Hazratbal shrine, according to the police.

Superintendant of Police Mohammed Amin said that 15 people died in Bijbihara when paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) troops opened fired to break up a 30,000-strong crowd heading for the mosque.

Doctors at Bijbihar's main hospital told AFP that 24 people had died and more than 100 had been injured, including 20 who were in serious condition.

In Srinagar, thousands of people took to the streets shouting "break the siege" and attempting to organize marches on the mosque where a group of 50 armed Moslem militants has been holed up for a week.

Most of the protests were swiftly broken up by troops using clubs and tear gas but a crowd estimated at up to 20,000 people formed in the Safa Kadal area of Srinagar and headed for the mosque some 10 kilometers (six miles) from here.

BSF troops first used tear gas to try to halt the marchers and opened fire when they were about seven kilometers (four miles) short of their destination, witnesses said.

Three people were killed and more than 50 injured in the gunfire and a stampede which followed the first bursts of automatic weapons fire, police said.

Maulvi Mohammad Abbas Ansari, a prominent Kashmiri politician who led the marchers, was among the injured, police said. He was taken to an army hospital but the extent of his injuries was not known.

One person was killed and three injured when border guards opened fire on protestors shouting "Indian troops out of Hazratbal" and "We will die for the shrine" in the Karfolleh Mohall district of downtown Srinagar, police said.

Three deaths occurred elsewhere in Srinagar when troops shot into slogan-shouting crowds of demonstrators, a police spokesman added.

Kashmiri Moslem leaders had called on the population of the Moslem-majority Kashmir Valley to stage a march after Friday prayers on the Hazratbal mosque, the holiest Islamic shrine in this northern Indian state.

Indian officials imposed a curfew throughout the valley overnight in a bid to thwart the planned marches and up to 25,000 heavily armed border guards were brought in to try to keep residents confined to their homes.

The 50 armed Kashmiri Moslem militants have been holed up in the Hazratbal mosque since Friday night, when they were cornered during an army sweep aimed at rounding up suspected separatists.

Up to 10,000 army troops have surrounded the shrine, situated on the banks of Nagin Lake, and are demanding that the militants give themselves up. Troops were seen Friday digging new security bunkers around the complex.

A government spokesman said that mediators held three rounds of negotiations with the militants Friday but declined to reveal details of the talks.

A source close to the negotiations said, however, that the militants may be given safe passage if they lay down their weapons and release some 70 pilgrims who have also been trapped in the shrine since the siege began.

On Thursday, the militants rejected a government offer of food and medicine and appeared at windows of the mosque to shout appeals for help from the world community.

The soldiers ringing the mosque have cut off water and power to the shrine, which houses a hair which Kashmiri Moslems believe comes from the beard of the Prophet Mohammed.

More than 7,000 people have died in Kashmir since 1989, when militants stepped up a drive for the secession of India's only Moslem-majority state.

36 Die as Troops Fire on Mobs

BK2310034893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, the leader of banned Jammu and Kashmir Jamiat-i-Islami, Syed Ali Shah Gilani, and 22 others have been arrested for defying curfew.

In Kashmir valley, 36 persons were killed in incidents of firing on unruly mobs in Bijbiara and Srinagar yesterday. Violent mobs defied curfew enforced in view of the reports that some groups have planned to create widespread disturbances over the Hazratbal shrine issue.

AIR [All India Radio] Srinagar correspondent Ajit Singh reports that a BSF [Border Security Force] party in Bijbiara were fired upon by the militants in which an inspector was injured. The mob became unruly and attacked a police post and militants started heavy firing when BSF retaliated. Thirty-two persons were killed and over 70 injured in the exchange of fire. Senior officers have rushed to Bijbiara. Curfew continues and the situation is described as tense but under control.

In Srinagar, four persons were killed in two different incidents of firing by security forces on violent mobs. Today curfew is in force in only seven police station areas of Srinagar city.

Death Toll in Shootings Reaches 37

BK2310160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the death toll in yesterday's firing at Bijbiara in Anantnag district has risen to 37. Five of the injured persons succumbed to their injuries in different hospitals. The state government has described the killings as very unfortunate and has ordered a magisterial inquiry. The divisional commission of Kashmir, Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, visited Bijbiara today along with senior police and BSF [Border Security Force] officers for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation.

The curfew continues in Bijbiara and Anantnag towns. The situation is tense but under control. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, the additional chief secretary, home, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman; and the police chief, Mr. M.N. Sabharwal, said the government would take stern action against those found guilty in the inquiry.

In Srinagar, the security forces today recovered several incriminating documents and articles from the security guard room recently set ablaze by militants in a corner of the Hazratbal shrine complex, indicating that the place was being used as a militant hideout. Subarea Commander Brigadier S.P.S. Kunwar showed to mediamen 20 pieces of combat dresses, warning letters written on the printed letter pads of a militant outfit, and some subversive literature. These articles were contained in two bags which some militants had come to take out early this morning. They fled when spotted by the security forces.

Meanwhile, the situation around the Hazratbal shrine area continues to be peaceful. Security forces are maintaining a vigil around the shrine and making appeals over microphone, urging the militants to vacate the shrine or at least allow the civilians held inside to come out. Curfew has been curtailed to only seven police station areas in old Srinagar city.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chaavan, reviewed the situation relating to the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar at a meeting in New Delhi this evening. The minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, cabinet secretary, the home secretary, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

The Janata Dal has demanded that the government take a firm stand to defuse the situation arising out of the occupation by militants of Hazratbal shrine. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. Sunil Shastri, said the shrine is not a place for militants and they should vacate it.

Inquiry Ordered Into 22 Oct Shootings

BK2310090493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into yesterday's firing at

Bijbiara in Anantnag district in which 32 persons were killed and about 70 injured. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar a short while ago, the additional chief secretary, home, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, said that the firing incident was unfortunate and the government will take stern action if anyone is found guilty of use of excessive force. He said according to the preliminary inquiry, the militants had provoked the people to create disturbances which led to the tragedy. The state police chief, Mr. M.N. Sabharwal, said that there were six militants, including a member of the outlawed JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front], among those killed. Senior civil and police officials are in Bijbiara for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. Curfew is continuing in Bijbiara and Anantnag towns.

The situation around the Hazratbal shrine is peaceful. The curfew in the 15 of the 22 police station areas in Srinagar city has been lifted. In other parts of the Kashmir valley, there are no reports of any incidents.

Eminent Muslim personalities have appealed to the people in Srinagar not to allow the honor and sanctity of Hazratbal shrine to be compromised by the presence of weapons. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, they expressed concern that certain forces are trying to exploit the misguided youth for their selfish motive. The signatories include the president of the All India Minorities Forum, Mr. Zaheer Qureshi; member of the Delhi Waqf [Endowment] Board Mr. Ashiqeen Qureshi; journalist Mr. Shahid Siddiqi; General Secretary of the Indian National Muslim Conference Mr. M.Z. Khan; and General Secretary of Qaumi Educational Trust Mr. S.M. Haider.

The National Conference leader, Professor Saifuddin Soze, has expressed concern over the violence in different parts of the Kashmir valley yesterday and the resultant deaths. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, he called for utmost restraint in dealing with the situation.

A conference on Kashmir organized by the Socialist Group of the European Parliament has stressed the need to end violence in Kashmir. The conference also said that the secular character of Kashmir should be maintained and efforts for the safe return of Kashmiri migrants to be made. Briefing newspersons about the conference, which was held earlier this week, Professor Bhim Singh, president of the Panthers Party, said in New Delhi today that the representatives of Pakistan People's Party failed in their attempts to raise the Hazratbal issue at the meeting. Leaders of various political parties from India, including the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah; Mr. George Fernandes, Pakistan People's Party representatives, and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir prime minister attended the meeting. Prof. Bhim Singh also appealed to the militants occupying the Hazratbal shrine to surrender.

Bhutto Mention of Kashmir at Commonwealth Scored

BK2310155893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, has expressed the hope that the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, would carry forward the commitments made under the Simla agreement by her late father. Mr. Bhatia said in Amritsar today that the Kashmir issue can be resolved under this agreement. Referring to the raising of the Kashmir issue at the Commonwealth meet in Cyprus, the minister said it is not a forum to discuss bilateral issues. He said Kashmir is an integral part of India and it will not like intervention of any third party.

Pakistanis, Afghans, Kuwaitis in Shrine

BK2210162193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Brigadier S.P.S. Kunwar, who is looking after the security around the shrine [in Kashmir] disclosed this evening in Srinagar that among those hold up in the shrine include two Pakistanis, three Afghans, and two Kuwaitis or Lebanese. According to Brigadier Kunwar the militants have several types of weapons with them. These include at least two Universal [as heard] machine guns and one automatic grenade launcher.

Security forces have been appealing repeatedly over microphone to the militants to allow at least women, children and aged persons detained by them to come out of the shrine. The government has also made arrangements for food and medical aid just outside the shrine, but no one has so far been allowed to avail these facilities.

Area Around Shrine Said Calm

BK2310080493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation around the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar is peaceful. Curfew from 15 out of 22 police station areas in the city has been lifted. In other parts of the Kashmir valley there were no reports of any incidents. The situation in Bijbiara and Anantnag towns where curfew was imposed yesterday after violent incidents is tense but under control. Senior civil and police officials have rushed to Bijbiara for an on the spot assessment of the situation.

In Kishtwar town of Jammu Division an indefinite curfew is continuing following the killing of one person in a militant attack on a security force van. Four others were also injured. The IG [Inspector General] Police-Jammu Range, Mr. S.S. Wazir, said that the security forces vehicle was hit by a mine blast resulting in the death of a person on the spot and injuries to four security personnel. Curfew was clamped in the town yesterday after the incident as a precautionary measure.

Situation Around Shrine 'Peaceful'

BK2410031893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, security forces and the civil authorities are continuing their efforts to persuade the armed militants to come out of the Hazratbal Shrine where they are holed up for the past nine days. According to the sub-area commander, Brigadier S.P.S. Kunwar, two persons approached an army officer yesterday to say that they were being forced to stay in the shrine but were dragged inside the building by masked militants. The militants were seen laying a wire around smaller minarets.

The security forces have recovered combat uniforms and several other articles of incriminating nature from the burnt out security guard room some distance away from the main shrine. A book giving details of various types of militant activities and some threat letters to prominent persons were also recovered.

Meanwhile, the situation around the main shrine remains peaceful. The curfew has been lifted from the (Sofogal) police station area from today. However, the curfew continues in six police station areas out of a total of 22.

Negotiations Held Through Intermediaries

BK2410094893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, negotiations have been resumed through intermediaries to persuade the militants holed up inside Hazratbal shrine to come out and surrender. Security forces are making announcements over loudspeakers urging the armed militants to allow women, children, and the aged people to come out of the shrine. Food and medical facilities have been provided outside the shrine complex, but nobody has been allowed by the militants so far to go out of the shrine. An army officer told newsmen that two persons who wanted to go out of the shrine yesterday were prevented by armed militants.

Meanwhile, curfew was lifted from (Shafakhbel) area today. Precautionary curfew is now confined only to areas around the Hazratbal shrine. Latest reports, from Bijbiara and Anantnag say that curfew continues there on the third day today. According to official sources the local authorities reviewed the situation this morning and decided to continue the curfew as a precautionary measure. In Srinagar, curfew was relaxed for three hours this morning in three of the six police station areas where it is in force. People made purchases of essential commodities. Small processions were taken out in violation of the prohibitory order at three places but those were dispersed by the security forces.

Maulvi Syed Ejaz Ali of Dargah [mausoleum], Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti of Ajmer has condemned the seizure of the holy Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar as anti-Islamic. In a statement issued today, the Maulvi prayed for the good sense to prevail upon the militants who should lift the seize immediately.

Further on Talks With 'Militants'

BK2410155893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpt] In Srinagar, two rounds of direct talks have been held between the divisional commissioner of Kashmir, Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, and the militants holed up inside the Hazratbal shrine for the last 10 days. The first round was held yesterday evening and the second this morning. Today's talks were held for about two hours. Mr. Habibullah has said the atmosphere of the talks was quite conducive, and he was hopeful of a peaceful solution of the situation at the shrine. Our Srinagar correspondent Ajit Singh reports:

[Begin Singh recording] The talks were held near the Dhobighat Mohalla Gate and the two sides stood on either side of the outer wall of the shrine complex. There were five citizens also taking part in the talks from the government side. On the other side were four persons, three of them with covered faces. Next round of talks is likely to be held tomorrow. Meanwhile, curfew was relaxed in five of the six police station areas today for varying durations. There were three attempts of taking out processions by defying prohibitory orders, but security forces foiled those. Situation around the Hazratbal shrine complex remained peaceful and no incident was reported. [end recording]

In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew continued in Bijbiara and Anantnag towns on the third day today. As reported earlier, the state government has announced a magisterial inquiry into the firing incident on Friday, in which 37 persons lost their lives and 72 were injured. The inquiry will be completed within two weeks and the government will take up appropriate action. The director general of the BSF [Border Security Force], Mr. Prakash Singh, visited Bijbiara town today for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. [passage omitted]

AFP: Kashmiri Separatists Given Food

BK2410114893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Report by Izhar Wani]

[Text] Srinagar, India, Oct 24 (AFP)—Indian troops on Sunday allowed food to be given to Kashmiri separatist guerrillas holed up in a mosque here as 10 people were injured in renewed protests against the army siege of the shrine.

A local doctor was also allowed inside the besieged Hazratbal mosque for the first time to examine the estimated 50 armed militants and 70 Moslem pilgrims who have been barricaded inside the complex since the night of October 15.

Thirty-five kilograms (77 pounds) of meat, a large tub of rice and loaves of traditional Kashmiri bread were taken into the lake- side mosque by the head priest of the shrine, Bashuddin Farooqi, and four volunteers, officials said.

They said the meal was prepared by local residents since the militants had rejected previous offers of food and water from the government.

The physician allowed inside the mosque, Fayaz Khalid Farooqi, said many of the pilgrims in the shrine were suffering from fatigue and some were ill. He said he gave medicine to the sick but did not elaborate on their condition.

A government spokesman, Mehmood ur Rehman, said negotiations were continuing with the militants but nothing "tangible" had emerged from the talks.

"We are making concerted efforts to resolve the crisis. A number of people have been contacted and we are soliciting their support to end the crisis," he told reporters.

Most of Srinagar was calm Sunday, but there were scattered protests by hundreds of Kashmiri Moslems who defied a curfew and heavily armed border security guards to take to the streets and shout anti-Indian slogans.

Police said 10 people were injured when paramilitary forces used tear gas and clubs to break up the demonstrations in various parts of the city. [passage omitted]

Kashmir Governor K.V. Krishna Rao, a retired army general, expressed "deep sorrow and grief" Sunday over the deaths in Bijbihara and said 100,000 rupees (3,300 dollars) would be paid to the relatives of each of the victims.

He said magistrates would conduct an enquiry into the shooting and their report would be submitted to the government within two weeks for "appropriate action."

A curfew was lifted on Sunday for the first time in nine days in parts of Srinagar but streets were empty and vehicles were off the road as a protest strike shut down this city of 700,000 people.

In the downtown Lal Chowk area, troops played popular Hindi film songs on loudspeakers in an attempt to coax people out of their homes and restore an air of normality, residents said.

But the move appeared to have only sparked more anger among residents of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

"They are sprinkling salt on our wounds by playing inane songs," said bank employee Ghulam Qadir Lone.

"You cannot bring things back to normal like this," added Mohammed Amin, pointing from a window to the closed shutters of shops, banks and offices.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training separatists waging a violent campaign for an end to Indian rule over Kashmir, the country's only Moslem majority state.

Pakistan denies the charges but calls the Kashmiri revolt, which has left more than 7,000 people dead during the past four years, a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Delhi Confirms Food Provided to Occupants

BK2510091093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, efforts are on to resolve the deadlock at the Hazratbal shrine where armed militants are holed up along with civilians. Supply of food inside the shrine was allowed yesterday on humanitarian grounds. Two rounds of direct negotiations were held by the commissioner of Kashmir division, Mr. Wajahat Habibullah. Another round of talks is likely to be held today.

In Srinagar, curfew was relaxed for five hours from 0700 this morning in five of the six police station areas where the curfew is still in force as a precautionary measure. According to official sources, no incident has been reported. Curfew was also lifted from Anantnag town, while it has been relaxed in Bijbiara since 1000 this morning. The director general of police, Mr. M.N. Sabharwal, told newsmen that no untoward incident has been reported in both these towns. Curfew was imposed in these towns on Friday following a firing incident, resulting in killing of 37 persons and injury to 72 others.

U.S. Said 'Aiding, Abetting Terrorists'

BK2410130093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] The home minister has said that security forces will decide action against militants occupying the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar depending on the situation. Talking to reporters after addressing the Indo-Tibetan Border Police jawans [personnel] in New Delhi today, Mr. S.B. Chavan said that the state government and security forces are keeping a constant watch on the situation. He criticized the United States for helping Pakistan who was aiding and abetting terrorists in the country.

The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has appealed to people again for full cooperation in maintaining peace and harmony. He has expressed deep sorrow and grief at the killing of 37 persons at Bijbiara in Anantnag district on Friday. As already reported, a magisterial inquiry into the Bijbiara incident has been ordered and the inquiry will be completed in two weeks' time.

Meanwhile, local authorities reviewed the situation in Anantnag and Bijbiara this morning and decided to continue curfew in the areas as a precautionary measure.

In Srinagar, negotiations are continuing between officials and the militants occupying the Hazratbal shrine. While nothing has been stated officially on the progress of the talks, government has expressed hope to find an early end to the impasse. Curfew was relaxed in different

areas for varying durations today. Precautionary curfew is in force now in only six police station areas.

Air Force on 'High Alert'

BK2410144593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] With the siege of dargah [shrine] Hazratbal continuing for the ninth day today, there have been widespread demonstrations and strike in occupied Kashmir. Reports say despite restrictions, people in various towns and cities of the held valley, including Baramula, Sopor, Kupwara, Pulwama, and Badgam, took to the streets to condemn the desecration of dargah Hazratbal and the killing of over 70 people by Indian soldiers. In Bijbiara where 37 protesting Kashmiris were martyred and over 100 injured, the situation is reported to be tense. In Diaripura, Indian forces used batons and tear gas to disperse the protesters, killing or injuring several of them. Hospitals are reported to be overcrowded with those injured in firing by Indian soldiers.

According to reports, the presence of Indian troops has been further beefed up throughout the valley, particularly in areas around dargah Hazratbal. No food has been allowed into the shrine by Indian troops. The starving inmates have refused to surrender and are demanding the unconditional lifting of the siege by Indian troops.

Meanwhile, clashes between Indian troops and mojahedin continue in various parts of the held valley. In clashes that took place at Sopor and Pulwama, mojahedin inflicted heavy casualties on Indian troops. Mojahedin suffered six casualties. Reports say in one of the encounters, the supreme commander of the Jammu and Kashmir Al- Jihad Organization, Mohiuddin Sheikh alias Khalilur Rahman Pirunagam, has been martyred.

Reports say the Indian Government has ordered immediate dispatch of reinforcements to the held valley. There are also reports of growing differences between the government and the Army on ways of tackling the deteriorating situation. In view of the grave situation, leave to all armed forces personnel throughout India has been restricted. Leave for personnel serving along the borders and in occupied Kashmir has been totally stopped. Indian Air Force has also been placed on a high alert.

In various cities of Pakistan, there have been more demonstrations against the desecration and continuous siege of Hazratbal shrine by Indian troops in Srinagar. Protesters carrying placards and banners raised slogans against Indian atrocities in the held valley. They demanded immediate end of the reign of terror perpetrated on Kashmiri people. The marchers urged the international community to exert pressure on New Delhi to stop the massive human rights violations and implement UN resolutions on Kashmir. They said resolution of the Kashmir issue alone can ensure peace in the region and authorities in New Delhi must realize this fact. More rallies and protest marches are planned on Wednesday. The government of Azad Kashmir has appealed to Kashmiris all over the world and all the political parties in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir to observe a protest day and organize rallies on that day.

BJP: Pakistan Waging 'Proxy War' in Kashmir

BK2510094093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has charged the government with lack of clear directions in tackling various problems facing the country. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, he also criticized what he called excessive dependence on the World Bank aid and said this would subject the country to outside pressures.

Answering a question on the situation in Kashmir, Mr. Advani said it is strange that some countries give sermons on human rights to India even as their own track record is not good. He said Pakistan has been waging a proxy war in Kashmir, and this has been acknowledged by many nations.

U.S. Seen Behaving as 'World Policeman'

BK2510071693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0624 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 25 (AFP)—The United States is behaving like a world policeman and is assisting India's longstanding rival Pakistan, a senior Indian minister was quoted on Monday as saying.

"With the breakup of the Soviet bloc, there is only one force now that is assuming the role of a policeman in the world," Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan told troops of a paramilitary force here Sunday.

"There is a new atmosphere in the world today in which countries don't interfere directly but through an indirect approach," The Times of India quoted Chavan as saying.

The minister did not refer to the United States by name in his speech given to troops of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, but told reporters later that he was referring to Washington.

Chavan, a confidant of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, also accused the United States of helping Pakistan's anti-Indian activities.

He did not elaborate. Asked if he had proof to back his claim, Chavan said: "We do not have evidence to prove it, but I have no doubt about it."

Chavan's comments came almost a month after U.S. President Bill Clinton said in a speech at the United Nations that Kashmir was among those areas where "a bloody ethnic ... and civil war" was raging in the world.

India accuses Pakistan, with which it has fought three wars, of arming and training Muslim separatists in

Kashmir. Islamabad denies this, but supports the Muslim revolt there, calling it a struggle for self-determination.

Iran

'Missile War Game' in Persian Gulf Begins

LD2310175393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The joint Sa'eqeh-3 missile war game started today with the participation of the missile personnel of the Khatam al-Anbia-1 base as well as the land-to-sea missile divisions of the naval forces of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corp in the sea off Hormozgan Province.

Units from regions one and two of the Navy and the Air Force of the Army and the Corp are taking part in the joint war game.

Following is a report by the Persian Gulf Bureau of the Central News Unit:

[Unidentified reporter] In this joint war game, which is to last for seven days and will cover 1,000 km in the Persian Gulf and the Hormoz Strait, the participants will conduct technical and tactical operations, land-to-sea missile systems, active and nonactive anticommando defense operations, radar and communication operations, exchange of information between operation rooms, and electronic war defense operations.

Maneuvers Continue in Gulf

LD2510124193 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov, Oct 25 (IRNA)—"Sa'eqeh-3" missile maneuver was successfully carried out in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz jointly by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and armed forces Sunday.

The seven-day maneuver launched Friday under the supervision of the missile command headquarters of Khatam ul-Anbia [Seal of the Prophets] with the participation of coast to sea missile brigades of the IRGC and armed forces.

Commando excercise, air and land chemical counter-attack by a hypothetical enemy, defensive operations and mopping up of the affected areas were also performed.

The week-long maneuver is being carried out in an area of 1,000 kilometers of the Persian Gulf coasts and the Strait of Hormuz.

In subsequent stages of the maneuver, technical and tactical exercise of coast to sea missiles, anti-commando, radar and, communications operations, exchange of information between operational headquarters, anti-chemical defence and, electronic war will be also carried out.

Planned Missile Test With DPRK Denied

LD2310184893 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry source here Saturday categorically rejected allegations that Iran was planning to test-fire a medium range missile in conjunction with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the Lut Desert, eastern Iran.

The Foreign Ministry official also described as "mere lie" the claim raised by the Arabic daily SHARQ AL-AWSAT which is published simultaneously from Riyadh and London.

The daily quoting unnamed sources claimed in its Friday's issue that the Islamic Republic and DPRK would test-fire a medium range missile this month capable of hitting Israel.

Visit by Egypt's Mubarak to Washington Viewed

NC2510082593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived in Washington on a brief visit and for talks with American political and economic officials. Mubarak and Clinton are to meet in the White House today. Mubarak is also to meet with the U.S. defense, treasury, and trade secretaries as well.

The focus of Mubarak's discussions with American officials, and especially with Clinton, will be the Middle East peace developments, bilateral relations, and U.S. assistance to Egypt. However, some political experts believe that the situation in Somalia, the crisis stemming from the presence of American forces in that country, and Egypt's role in African problems will also be included in the talks between Mubarak and Washington officials.

In a general assessment, political analysts believe that the motive behind the Mubarak-Clinton meeting is the common concern felt by the political officials in Egypt and America. The first common concern felt by America and Egypt stems from the developments concerning the compromise between Israel and the Arab governments. White House and Cairo officials expected the PLO-Israeli accord to put into motion a train of compromise in the region that would then rapidly pass on to near and far stations in the region. However, despite the propaganda-political commotion and the planned—and sometimes imposed—meetings between the heads of the Zionist regime and political officials of Arab countries, the compromise process is moving much slower than its engineers expected.

Washington, Tel Aviv, and Cairo expected the benefits from the situation after the Gaza-Jericho accord were reached and before the emergence of practical problems in this accord would be sufficient to move the Arab-Israeli crisis to its final stages. However, the problems stemming from the Gaza-Jericho accord apparently are developing faster than the false atmosphere of compromise, and these problems are gradually overshadowing this compromise. This situation has prompted Zionist Prime Minister Rabin to state that the PLO-Israeli compromise accord cannot be implemented on the scheduled date. This is one of the common concerns felt by America and Egypt.

Efforts by U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross to activate the compromise talks have not had any tangible results, and Cairo's intense pressure to start secret or overt talks between Israel and Syria did not have any practical impact on Syria's basic stance on the conduct of the Zionist leaders. This is also a common concern of Washington and Cairo.

The third common concern of the leaders of Egypt and America is the situation in Africa. Egypt is concerned over Sudan's steadfastness and the growth of Islamism in Africa, and America is concerned over its situation in the Somali crisis. America wants Egypt, as the rotating chair of the Organization of African Unity, to assume more responsibility in the Somali crisis and to transform the Somali crisis—which has become an international crisis with the intervention by the United Nations and Western countries and has, in turn, created a crisis in America's foreign policy—into a regional crisis for regional organizations to solve.

Another concern felt by Washington and Cairo is the domestic situation in Egypt and its foreign reactions. The more active Egypt's role in American foreign policy in the region is, the more Egypt's domestic problems increase. Mubarak is currently facing two fundamental domestic problems: the economic problem and the violation of human rights through unbridled suppression of the Egyptian people and Islamists. American circles are concerned about the Egyptian regime's future; and if corruption exists in the ruling system and if the policy of suppression is continued, economic assistance to that regime cannot ensure that Cairo will remain in Washington's sphere of influence. Thus American circles are discussing cutting their $2-billion annual assistance to Egypt.

In his discussions with the U.S. President and with the secretaries of the treasury and commerce, Mubarak wants to convince the American officials to continue this assistance. But it seems impossible for him to end the U.S. officials' concern about the future of his regime, especially since Mubarak himself is associated with repeated violations of human rights in the world.

Commentary Questions Need for Western Loans

NC2410201593 Tehran SALAM in Persian 13 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Us and International Economic Institutions"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Numerous facts and figures show that international economic institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank are all working to benefit the West's policies. But as to why some of our economic officials insist on relations with them and on possibly using the financial and expert assistance that these institutions can offer is not clear. In view of the visit to America two weeks ago of two delegations from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and from the Central Bank headed by Vice President for Economic Affairs Nurbakhsh and Central Bank Governor 'Adeli for talks and meetings with these economic institutions and to participate in their annual meeting, it is necessary to make some observations:

What can be learned from the news is that, in a bid to appease the leaders of these institutions, our economic officials have had to express some views that are not favorable to the Islamic system; views such as, "Iran has not decided in any way to acquire chemical and nuclear weapons or to manufacture such weapons." Should we expect to receive a permit from international organizations to acquire nuclear or other arms? When there was aggression against our country and during the war when our people were attacked by missiles and chemical weapons, did any of these institutions help us or even condemn the aggressor? We are living in a very dangerous area and the decisions that we make for our defense system should be free from any of the prevailing considerations in international politics. Increasing or decreasing our military budget should never be a topic of discussion by others. If there are those who do not accept this argument, they should look at Pakistan, which has never set aside its policy of acquiring nuclear arms—despite foreign pressure, including some from these same economic institutions—to defend its security. In short, if relations with these institutions are to affect the decisions that we will make in our defense, security, and other affairs, then the continuation of these relations are not in Iran's interests.

In relation to this, it is noteworthy to recall the remarks made by World Bank President Lewis Preston when he was asked by a correspondent, "Apparently, the World Bank has made the extension of a loan to Iran contingent on putting its domestic situation in order?" Preston replied: "No special steps have been taken concerning the extension of a loan." This question and answer convey a special meaning within the context of the world situation today. And if we combine this with the news on U.S. opposition to a loan to Iran, we realize the pressure that is being inflicted on Iran through the World Bank and the IMF, pressure that is aimed at adjusting Iran's policies. This comes at a time when, according to the same person, the loan that was extended to Iran during

the last fiscal year was $463.4 million, which is almost equivalent to 15 days of Iranian oil sales.

The question that arises is: Do we really need such loans with such conditions? Our country has a sufficient income to run its affairs. Therefore, instead of turning to international economic institutions that operate within the framework of the West's hegemonistic policies, we should reform the management and efficacy of our income resources. We will not be able to satisfy our hunger with the loaf of bread that the West will loan to us.

Efforts to 'Encourage' U.S. Ties Criticized

NC2410075993 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Oct 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Habibollah 'Askar-Owladi: "Is Not 'Death to America' a Holy Defense?"]

[Excerpts] Who benefits from encouraging relations with America, and what powers have exploited and will exploit this situation?

Undoubtedly counterrevolutionary groupings abroad will all benefit. At least, they will benefit by accusing the Islamic Republic and the officials of the system of wanting such relations and will feed this information to their imaginary supporters and to the readers of their publications and clandestine letters that have no audience, in a futile attempt to show that they are politically active.

Groupings—both the leftists, those who claim to be nationalists, the wandering liberals, the dispersed monarchists, and the fugitive capitalists who are dependent on everything and everyone—benefit from this encouragement. [passage omitted]

Groupings of various tastes concoct lies and make futile allegations. But their acts are best described by the Koranic verse: "Then leave them to plunge in vain discourse and trifling."

Even though their inventions are outrageously untrue, they nevertheless occupy the minds of some and distract adolescents and youths who are abroad. They give some of the bankrupt people reason to think that the spirit that prevails in Iran has changed and sunk to the point of making contacts with American officials.

Meanwhile, satanic and anti-Islamic powers around the world, especially hegemonistic America, definitely exploit such overt and covert encouragements. [passage omitted]

But on the whole, the conclusion is that encouraging relations with America without the American leaders abandoning their overt and covert enmity to Islam, the Islamic Revolution, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is contrary to what the Islamic Revolution has to say in the world—that is, what the imam, may his soul be sanctified, had to say and what our God-seeking people have accepted with all their hearts. The esteemed leader, may his shadow extend, is continuing and consolidating what the imam started; and what our ummah are repeating in the post-Imam era is resounding louder—that is: "Death to America, death to the great Satan and to its satanic acts."

Some naive people think that the slogan "Death to America" is only a unilateral offensive slogan and that we should give up this slogan so that we will give up our offensive attitude and pave the way for peace and reconciliation!!!

Truly, whoever thinks that way is simple-minded, since America—that is, America's hegemonistic leaders—are resorting to all kinds of satanic acts and shouting "Death to Islam," and they spare no efforts to destroy pure Islam! Is not the slogan "Death to America" considered by our alert ummah and by all the Islam-seekers of the world to be at least a defense of pure Islam?! Can our martyr-nurturing ummah ignore this small bit of defense, which is necessary until the American nation wakes up and prevents its leaders' hostility to Islam—that is, the unity-creating aspiration of all the monotheists of the world. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, it is necessary to point out that if any individual or individuals have encouraged relations with America, they should not be confronted with accusations and insults, but we should take incidents like this as an opportunity to talk to our youths and to give them opportunity to study the revolution, and treat it as an opportunity to deepen the revolution, further awaken the oppressed nations of the world, and to warn the American people, the European nations, and the other nations of the world to stop blindly following America, and to pray to God and to the imam of the Ages.

"Please God let us see the bright face and give us victory over our enemies. God's prayers be upon the Prophet and his scion."

Larijani Comments on U.S. Policy in Somalia

NC2410144093 Tehran ETTELAAT in Persian 14 Oct 93 p 16

[Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani commentary: "Somalia's Experience"]

[Text] 1. What has happened in Somalia is one of the most important political events in the world in several aspects. Even the simple facade of the event—hungry and homeless people—is very educational and has resulted in a abject defeat for one of the most brazen bullies of our era, which has resorted to all its advanced materiel and—even more important—which is unconcerned about murdering and plundering! But what lies behind this incident is more significant and interesting. In order to accurately understand the significance and true place of this incident in the network of world events, we should first glance at current American policy in the world:

The American politicians believe that the downfall of Marxism has prepared the world—both psychologically

and ideologically—to accept America's leadership and that, thus, this golden opportunity should not be lost. Moreover, in order to achieve this goal, they believe that they should not consult the peoples or politicians of the world on whether America's world leadership is good or not, and other such matters. They believe that they should first "deal" with the "issue" and then think of the philosophy behind it. And this method of thinking has led America to seize each and every opportunity to deploy its military so that it will be accepted as a "reality" in the world.

2. The Somali people's reaction showed that they know well the difference between humanitarian assistance and hegemonistic plans and that, above all, they have mustered the courage to stand up to a menacing military power. And the most important thing is that the resistance by hungry and helpless people has yielded very important results! Each of the three following conditions is relevant and important in today's world situation:

—Despicable hegemonistic plots may lurk behind plans for cooperation and assistance at the international level. Thus, political maturity is necessary for officials and the public to differentiate between the two and to uncover plots.

—Extensive propaganda, shows of strength, and especially an absence of moral principles can spread fear in the hearts of world politicians and peoples and, as a result, rob them of the courage that they need to stand up. Therefore, the issue of "power" should be regarded within its true and not implied parameters!

—Calculations for success are always a sign of logical thinking. However, the effective principles that can help to achieve success should not be subjected to hasty calculations. There is nothing that can replace the will and the role of a human being in a power structure.

3. In my opinion, General Aidid has defeated Mr. Clinton even in the area of political maneuvering. On the eve of the dispatch of fresh forces to Mogadishu, the Somali leader organized a 200,000-strong demonstration with people shouting: "We want peace and a cease-fire." This was a beautiful political move which cost America dearly.

However, if affairs at the United Nations had been in the hands of a more able person, the situation would definitely have developed differently. Today the UN Security Council has no justification to continue its disgraceful policy in Somalia. Everyone has understood the change in direction from humanitarian assistance to the plan to impose a government, and everyone is loudly rejecting this! Without any changes having been made to the UN Charter, the UN secretary general has gone ahead to implement a "new plan," and this is a continuation of the very same American policy of "dealing" with issues on the world scene.

4. The Mogadishu events have significantly affected America's world leadership strategy. If it was not clear in the past, today it is very clear that America's world leadership role cannot be established merely with propaganda and a show of strength! Therefore, the only path that open to American politicians is the same path that Napoleon and Hitler followed. If America wants to exercise world leadership by relying on its military strength, it must conquer one country after the other and then maintain these conquests! America has the same chance of leading the world as it has of accomplishing this. Washington's diplomats should heed this fundamental fact rather than hurling accusations at one party or another!

MKO 'Agents' Reportedly Stationed Near Border

LD2410152293 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Abadan, Khuzestan Prov., Oct. 24, IRNA—A few batches of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) agents have been reportedly stationed close the Iraqi town of Tanuma near Iran's southern border point of Shalamcheh, it was revealed here Sunday.

According to Iranian border guards who have been closely watching the movements of terrorists, the mission of MKO contingents is to collect information and find loopholes to infiltrate into Iranian territory via Shalamcheh to carry out sabotage.

Mohsen Abrishamchi, received military training by the Iraqi Army, is commanding the MKO groups based near Shalamcheh region.

Over the past two weeks, some MKO terrorists, better known in Iran as monafeqin (hypocrites) have been arrested while trying to attack Iranian villages bordering Iraq.

The terrorists confessed that the Iraqi-based terrorist grouplet is getting prepared to launch terrorist operation along Iranian border regions.

Last week, MKO formally announced the completion of a four-day military exercise across Iran-Iraq border.

Some MKO terrorists have slipped into western Iranian border areas from Iraq over the past two months, attacking civilians and killing at least six people including two children.

The parents of the two children killed by the MKO terrorists, who were also wounded in the attack, were hospitalized in Kermanshah, capital of the western border province of Bakhtaran. So far, they have undergone three surgical operations. The parents had not heard about the death of their beloved children until yesterday when they were informed of the tragic event by the grandfather of the two innocent children.

An informed law enforcement source told IRNA Sunday that over the past two months MKO terrorists have attempted four times to penetrate into Iranian [words

indistinct] reconnaissance and sabotage mission but each time were forced to flee by Iranian border guards.

The MKO ringleader has recently promised its agents that they would soon occupy Tehran in an operation to be led by Maryam Qajar Azdanlu, former wife of Abrishamchi.

Despite documented evidence that MKO terrorists are preparing to launch attacks against Iranian border regions, the grouplet has repeatedly denied such an intention, claiming that Iranian forces were planning operations against them.

Refugee Camps Set Up in Azerbaijan

LD2310181093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Through the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], four camps have been set up for Azerbaijani refugees in Azerbaijan, with 2,000 tents and a capacity for 28,000 refugees. The camps are in the Rameshli area.

(Vahid Dasgerdi), the head of the IRI's Red Crescent Society said that another camp with adequate amenities will be opened inside Azerbaijan. He added: On the basis of coordination work between Iran and Azerbaijan, more than 100,000 Azerbaijani refugees will be settled inside that country.

(Vahid Dasgerdi) said that during the arrival of Azerbaijani refugees, the UNHCR has failed to offer any assistance, and pointed out: The IRI Red Crescent Society has undertaken the task of giving and distributing relief aid in all its aspects. He said: So far a great deal of foodstuffs, clothing, requisites, and 1.68 billion rials have been given as relief aid to the refugees by the Red Crescent.

He added: Iranian compatriots can send their cash donations to the account number 11 111 of the Bank Melli and other donations to the Red Crescent.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Siege in Kashmir

LD2310184093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry has expressed regret about the armed attack of Indian military forces against the Muslims protesting about the siege of the pilgrimage site of Hazratbal in Kashmir.

Following yesterday's disturbances, and the armed attack by Indian troops against Muslims protesting the siege of the Hazratbal pilgrimage site, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman expressed regret, in an interview with the Central News Unit's correspondent, about the unprincipled action taken by Indian troops and asked the Indian Government to seriously review the behavior of that country's military forces toward Kashmiri Muslims. He added: The events that are taking place in Kashmir now have severely inflamed the passions of hundreds of millions of Muslims.

Our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed the hope that the Indian Government will, by adopting a realistic outlook, respect the sentiments of Muslims throughout the world, and especially of the Muslim people of Kashmir, and end the siege of the Hazratbal pilgrimage site as soon as possible.

Nateq-Nuri Urges Maintaining Sanctity of Majles

LD2410131493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] At the beginning of today's open Majles session, Speaker Nateq-Nuri stressed the importance of the Majles as a free and open tribune. He said: The conduct and utterances of members in guarding the dignity of the Majles and distancing themselves from tensions and the settlement of private accounts would maintain the honor of the Majles.

Addressing Majles members, the speaker stated: When you want to argue about things, it is possible to do it outside the Majles. There are other tribunes including the press. Maintain the sanctity of this tribune.

Nateq-Nuri said it is an honor that the leadership and people are satisfied with the Majles. He added: The president too, in his discussions on the new cabinet, emphasized that he had not witnessed any tension in the members' speeches for and against. He said: This is an indication of the sense of responsibility of the members.

Pointing to the importance of Majles business, the speaker stressed the need for the continued and prompt presence of members.

Majles Law Against Misconduct Approved

LD2410141693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Majles members today approved a measure that means that administrative offenses will now include conduct and behavior contrary to professional dignity, violation of laws and regulations, misconduct toward clients, failure to carry out clients' legal affairs for no particular reason, slander and accusation, disrespectful behavior, as well as bribery, embezzlement, and discrimination against individuals in the execution of laws and regulations.

According to our correspondent's report, one of the clauses of the bill on administrative offenses, which was approved in today's open session of the Majles, includes: [passage omitted] disclosure of administration's classified secrets, unauthorized contact and communication with foreign nationals, carelessness and negligence in the conduct of entrusted duties, refusal to carry out orders by senior staff on administrative duties, production of

false administrative reports or documents, taking of monies more than what is required by law, or taking any property that would in custom constitute bribery, transfer of documents to persons who do not have the right of their possession, and nonobservance of Islamic dress code or Islamic principles and rites.

According to the clause: [passage omitted] obstruction of work, scaremongering, participation in illegal sit-ins, strikes and demonstrations, or encouraging others to these acts, are also among administrative offenses.

According to our correspondent's report, other cases of administrative offenses, which have been approved by the Majles, are membership in deviant groups, cooperation with the disbanded Savak [former secret service], membership in groups whose constitution is based on the denial of divine religions, membership in groups in armed rebellion against the state, and membership in freemason organizations. [passage omitted]

Commentary Urges Study of Second 5-Year Plan

NC2510082293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Excerpts] With the end of the first Five-Year Plan approaching, the country's economic policymakers in the executive branch are completing the second 5-Year Plan for the Islamic Republic's economic, social, and cultural development to submit to the Majles for discussion and approval. [passage omitted]

One of the major policies in the country's planning system is the distribution of resources. Traditionally, the idea has been that because the country has gas and oil resources, much of the cost of the plan should be met from the income from this national wealth. But the main question is: Is it beneficial to use such resources now and deprive future generations of the chance to progress by selling our God-given wealth?

Experts and policymakers believe the oil income should be used for investment so that by investing in industry, agriculture, and other fields, perpetual income sources are created on the basis of which future generations can plan and achieve more progress, especially when fluctuations in oil prices and the political pressure of world arrogance urge us to use the country's domestic potential and resources to ensure we meet the plan's needs.

Now that the first Five-Year Plan is in its final year and the Majles is preparing to study the second Plan and the 1357 [year beginning 21 March 1994] budget, at this point of the revolution, we should carefully consider world conditions, increasingly limited resources, and problems and seriously discuss the second plan and next year's budget under the directives of the esteemed leader and based on the views of the country's experts, despite the short period left, so that the Islamic Republic's second 5-Year Plan is stronger.

Majles By-Election Date Announced for 2 Areas

LD2310181593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Interior Ministry has announced that the second [as heard] by-elections for the fourth term of the Majles will be held on Friday 28 January 1994 in the two electoral constituencies of Ali-Gudarz and Natanz. Candidates who wish to become Majles deputies may register at the electoral centers of those constituencies during office hours during the week of 29 December 1993 to 4 January 1994.

Jannati Friday Sermon Views President's Trip

LD2210172193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1151 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in Tehran on 22 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] One topical issue is the trip by the president to Central Asian countries. Such trips are very necessary and beneficial, especially in areas where the people admire the Islamic revolution, and what they know of it they have heard, but not seen anything from close quarters. Such trips enable them to get a glimpse of a figure who has been on the front line of the revolution from the beginning; one who has all the information at his fingertips and can answer any questions. Seeing him and hearing his words will be heartwarming and unifying for the people. It would have very favorable results, both in connection with the governments—in any case, we are obliged to and must expand and improve our ties and trade with countries which are not our enemies; naturally, that is accomplished during such visits—and, more importantly, in terms of contact with the people. It is very important for the people to hear those speeches. Particularly in those areas where the revolution has many admirers. [passage omitted]

May God make Rafsanjani more successful in attaining his goals.

Recently a circular from the Plan and Budget Organization—attached to the 1373 [Iranian year starting 21 March 1994] budget, has been quoted. It has been officially conveyed to those concerned. Something very good has been done in that circular for '73: the purchasing of land, the purchasing of buildings and the purchasing of cars has been banned. They are not allowing saloon cars to be purchased and perforce this will not be allowed in the budget. They have no right to spend any part of the '73 budget on such things. Diplomatic missions abroad are being prevented from being increased [sentence as heard]. Perforce every mission has some extra expense. In any case such expenses are being curtailed to a great extent; on the other hand some facilities have been envisaged for civil

servants. This is a very good move; in both its dimensions. The elimination of unnecessary expense as well as creating facilities for the respected civil servants—who really have problems. And in this country ...[changes thought]... Other places are more or less the same, we are not an exception. Those whose income is limited are really having difficulties in life because of the problem of inflation. That was a good move.

Besides that I would like to tell you: Let us continue that policy with wider dimensions. We must come up with something for those with small incomes. On the one hand prices go up every day and on the other hand the income of some people is very low and does not suffice for their livelihood. Well, those are some of the problems of our society. What should be done? What should the government do, what should the people do?

One of the things that the government must do diligently is to cut unnecessary expenses totally. I tell the respected government, for God's sake think along this line: where have the assets which are in our hands come from; whose are they; and how much can we spend? The lives of those in authority should be commensurate with the lives of the people. In some places, the people's lives are very good, at a high level; the incomes are high. Naturally their governments spend lavishly, overspend, and have expenses commensurate with the people's income. But where the people's income is low—and some are at a loss—[sentence unfinished as heard]

Specifically, something must definitely be done about rents, which is one of our more complex problems. Some have to spend nearly all of their salaries on rent. Well, what are they to do? One wonders how they manage to stay alive! Then under such circumstances, where some people are in such a situation, how should our banquets, visits [rafto amad], and ceremonies take place? Where we don't have to, why should we decorate with expensive flowers? Either we should not have flowers—if there are no flowers the world will not come to an end—or if we do, we should use cheap ones. Such expense is incompatible with the people's circumstances of life! The same with fruit, or confectionary, and the like. [passage omitted]

I tell our dear friends that whatever takes place in the government establishments is conveyed to the people. It should not be thought that nobody will realize what is going on. The cook who is present there, the servants who are present there, and others who come and go and are in the know and witness things, the foods...[changes thought]... Well, they all are in the know and what goes on is conveyed by them. Let's do things so that if the people are told about them they do not become unhappy. [Crowd chants of God is Great, Khamene'i is the leader, etc] [passage omitted]

My final remark is that we have a lot to say about world issues, and we have a lot of problems. In short, America is rebellious, it is committing crimes, it is acting wantonly, the U.S. rulers and government are indeed showing a great deal of immaturity and arrogance. I do not know, they were somewhat arrogant even before the Persian Gulf war [Iraqi occupation of Kuwait], but that war made them even more arrogant. They think they can solve world problems everywhere by having military forces there, and they call it a new world order or something like that. Indeed that is immaturity. There are 4 to 5 billion people in the world, so how could a single country with four children [as heard] sitting in it rule the world? Can mankind accept that? Now you, through your political games and dealings, buy leaders of countries, making deals and give and take around the negotiating table. With those acts you only deceive some people, but people understand and confront you. People cannot accept such things. [Participants chant: God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, Death to America, Death to Israel and other slogans]

Please allow me. Experience shows that the people in occupied Palestine, in Somalia, Haiti, or any other place where America wants to impose its military presence, have reached the conclusion—their actions demonstrate this as well—that they have to die themselves or kill the Americans. Because they know that the Americans do not understand any other language, but the language of bullets. Therefore the people are forced to do one of two things: go to the killing fields either to vanquish the enemy or be killed gracefully and honorably.

That is the way it is now. If the Americans want to confront people because they seek Islam, they should have at least that much experience and wisdom to see that this is not a wave which can be eliminated. It grows bigger day by day.

Recently I saw a film about China. Apparently a newspaper had in some way insulted Muslims and their faith. The film depicted a very extensive demonstration in progress. [passage omitted] The demonstrators could not stand idly by and watch their religious beliefs being insulted. You have also read in the newspapers that Indonesian Muslims recently set fire to a shop in that country because its proprietor had in some way insulted the Koran. You also saw that because of the Salman Rushdie affair, a number of premises were set ablaze in Turkey.

At present, as far as the Salman Rushdie affair is concerned, the Western world has focused its pressures solely on Iran, whereas this is not an Iranian issue nor is it only about Salman Rushdie. The issue is very similar to what takes place in Mecca and in Minan during the pilgrimage season where a number of pillars have been set up to be used as symbolic targets for anyone wishing to throw stones at Satan. Salman Rushdie is currently the symbol of Satan in the sphere of propaganda. Right now, anyone who wishes to throw stones at Satan aims at Salman Rushdie. However, one must bear in mind that the issue is not just confined to Salman Rushdie as an individual; the issue has to do with Satan, moves against religion and the sanctities of Islam. This is a fact, and if

the Western world is intelligent enough, it should understand it. Exerting greater pressure will only lead to the deterioration of the situation.

Just look at what the PLO and Israel have done. How are they ever to succeed, given the fact that this flame can never be extinguished this easily? Do they believe that the Palestinian revolutionaries who have lost so many loved ones and have suffered so much are going to give up their goal so easily? Do they think that other Muslims and the Palestinian refugees are going to give up their struggle? [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Further on Events Surrounding Hazratbal Shrine

Tear Gas Said Used Against Marchers

BK2210120093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] There has been widespread resentment and condemnation of the sacrilege of Hazratbal shrine in occupied Kashmir by the Indian troops. Imams and khatibs [prayer leaders and preachers] at the Juma [Friday] sermons today expressed serious concern over the continued siege of Hazratbal complex by the Indian forces and the damage inflicted to the dargah [shrine]. They called upon the world community, particularly Muslim countries, to view seriously this incident, as it involves violation of the sanctity of one of the holiest shrines of the Muslim ummah [community]. They also drew attention of the international community to the plight of the people trapped inside the shrine, whose water, power, and food supplies remained off for a week. People also offered special prayers for the success of the liberation struggle of the people of the occupied Kashmir.

In occupied Kashmir, police fired tear gas to disperse hundreds of Kashmiri people who defied curfew in a bid to march toward the besieged Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar. A police spokesman said there were no reports of injuries; however, they arrested 20 persons. Journalists were prevented from reaching the area to verify the police account. Troops also surrounded Srinagar Hotel where journalists were staying and cordoned off newspaper offices to prevent news reporters from reaching the Hazratbal shrine. Meanwhile, one person was killed and 10 others injured when a bomb exploded in a bus en route to Jammu from a nearby town today.

Deaths Reported as Troops Open Fire

BK2210160193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Latest reports from occupied Kashmir say the Indian forces fired at the Kashmiris marching toward the besieged Hazratbal shrine, martyring at least 29 people. Police sources in their initial report have confirmed the martyrdom of 15 people, but the Bejbehara Hospital sources said that more than 22 people have been martyred and over 20 seriously injured. The Indian forces fired at thousands of Kashmiris in Srinagar today, who were demanding the end of the military siege of the Hazratbal shrine. Two people were killed in the shooting. AFP, quoting eyewitnesses, said that more than 36 people were injured as a result of firing by the Indian forces at the demonstrators. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

Meanwhile, the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir staged protest demonstrations after Friday prayers today against the sacrilege of the Hazratbal shrine and the continued siege of more than 100 people in Srinagar by the Indian forces. These demonstrators were held in Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Rawalakot, [place names indistinct], and other parts of Azad Kashmir.

All-Party Jammu and Kashmir Hurriyyat Conference leaders observed a token fast in Islamabad today to protest the desecration of Hazratbal shrine by the Indian occupation forces. A rally was held in Lahore today to protest against the tragedy of Hazratbal shrine. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders of the rally condemned the Indian atrocities and violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir. The All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and the Kashmir Liberation Front organized a rally in Karachi to condemn the sacrilege of the Hazratbal shrine. The demonstrators held banners and shouted slogans against the violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir.

Meanwhile, a demonstration was held in Bangladesh today to protest the siege of the sacred shrine of the Muslims of Srinagar. The demonstrators condemned the continuous siege of the shrine by the Indian forces for over a week and demanded an immediate end to it.

President Urges International Intervention

BK2410082293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has called upon the international community to take immediate note of Hazratbal tragedy in occupied Kashmir and also take measures to stop suppression of Kashmiri people by Indian forces. He was talking to newsmen in Islamabad this morning after inaugurating the 14th annual technical conference of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators. The acting president pointed out that the present situation in held Kashmir demands that steps are taken for the resolution of Kashmir problem according to the UN resolutions. He said this is a matter which calls for the most urgent attention of the international community in view of the intensity of Hazratbal situation. Mr. Wasim Sajjad said that human rights situation in India, particularly in Kashmir, has reached a proportion where intervention of international community is a must. The acting president stressed that all methods be adopted so that pressure is brought upon India to check human rights violations and that UN resolutions on Kashmir are implemented.

Indian human rights activists have urged the government to end the siege of Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar, occupied Kashmir. A statement from the Committee for Initiative on Kashmir said the continuing siege of the shrine by the Indian (?forces) has created an extremely dangerous situation in the held valley and for the subcontinent. In another appeal, two watchdog rights bodies described the shooting of several demonstrators at Bijbiara town as unnecessary and uncalled for.

Foreign Minister Condemns Hazratbal 'Siege'

BK2510025893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has called on India to end its siege of Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar and take effective measures to stop repression of the Kashmiri people. In a statement, he regretted the massacre of innocent Kashmiris by the Indian occupation forces on 22 October, which marks an escalating spiral of violence after the siege of the Hazratbal shrine. He said the massacre reflects a trampling of religious sentiments and a grave violation of human rights and deserves to be condemned by all civilized people in the world.

The foreign minister said the wanton killing of the Kashmiris in Bijbiara testifies that the Indian repressive measures are motivated by its attempts to crush the spirit of the Kashmiri uprising. He rejected the Indian accusation that Pakistan is involved in the Kashmiri uprising which is entirely indigenous and is borne out of the conditions created in occupied Kashmir. Against this background, the foreign minister said that India's commitment to talks with Pakistan has a hollow ring and can be considered only when brutal actions are put to an end and there is a serious and objective dialogue held on the Jammu and Kashmir issue.

Bhutto Urges Action on UN Kashmir Resolutions

BK2410095493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] The United Nations Day is being observed today to commemorate the enforcement of the UN Charter. In a message on the occasion, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto reaffirmed Pakistan's firm commitment to the objectives and principles of the United Nations. She said that during its 48-year history, the United Nations has achieved numerous successes, but regrettably, some of its important resolutions, especially those on Jammu and Kashmir, have not yet been implemented. Benazir Bhutto expressed the hope that the UN secretary general will continue his efforts toward a peaceful settlement of this long-standing dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. The prime minister said the new Pakistani Government is determined to formulate its foreign policy in accordance with the UN Charter. She also invited other countries of the region to do the same to enable the South Asian people to live in an atmosphere of peace, friendship, and cooperation. The UN secretary general, in his message, said that a new chapter has begun in the history of the world, which requires the United Nations to play a new role.

Bhutto Urges India To Withdraw From Kashmir

BK2410150093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] In an interview televised by BBC in its news bulletin today, the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, called upon India to withdraw its troops from occupied Kashmir and allow the Kashmiris to exercise their will.

[Begin Bhutto recording] Indians must pull out their armored divisions from the valley. In the face of repression, there is going to be no solution; and it is whether India wants to do it bilaterally with us in accordance with UN resolutions or whether India would like to have a third party involved; what we are interested in seeing is the pullout of Indian troops from the valley and people of Jammu and Kashmir are allowed to express their sentiments, what they want; and depending on what they want, India must decide: Are they going to respect the wishes of the people, or are they going to use force? I don't think India can go on just pouring men and weapons into the valley. At some time, the realization has to come that this can't go on. [end recording]

The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, met King Fahd while she made a stopover in Saudi Arabia to perform the umrah [minor pilgrimage]. She apprised him about the latest situation in occupied Kashmir and Pakistan's efforts to resolve the conflict.

Pakistan's prime minister also had a brief stopover in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] where she met Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan. They discussed matters of mutual interest and regional and international issues.

The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, is back in Islamabad after her visit to Cyprus, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Broaching Kashmir Issue at Commonwealth Praised

BK2410100993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Oct 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Taking the Initiative on Kashmir in Cyprus"]

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has done well to have a raised the Kashmir issue with Commonwealth leaders both in separate meetings with some of them and during her address to the summit meeting in Limassol, Cyprus to seek broad based international support for Pakistan's stance on the issue. By calling for a peaceful settlement of the dispute and welcoming direct talks with India on this and other issues, she has reiterated Pakistan's well known position on how best to approach the ticklish issue. It was also good that Pakistan mooted a resolution at the summit and secured a promise from the British Prime Minister John Major, with whom she discussed separately

the human rights violations in Kashmir, that Britain will closely examine Pakistan's request to support the resolution. There is little chance of a resolution on Kashmir being adopted at the summit because according to the forum's charter even formal declarations are drafted on the basis of consensus, not logic or moral considerations. Nonetheless, the fact an effort has been made to formally bring to the attention of summit leaders the Kashmir issue in itself is a welcome development.

However, where Benazir seems to have faltered is when she hailed in her address the recent PLO-Israel agreement as a "good example of how to solve intractable world problems" and said that the September 13 agreement signed in Washington had "set an example to other states involved in conflicts". There are certain basic features of the Washington agreement signed between the PLO and Israel which make it a far too different issue than the one between India and Pakistan revolving around Kashmir, which the Prime Minister should have kept in mind. First, the Washington agreement was based on secret negotiations between PLO and Israel held in Oslo. No government in Pakistan can afford to hold Oslo-type secret talks behind the back of its people on the vital question of Kashmir. Any government in Islamabad which will dare strike a secret deal with India on Kashmir will only be signing its death warrant.

Second, the PLO-Israel agreement is nothing but total capitulation of Palestinian and Muslim rights. Anyone who has read the text of the agreement is in no doubt that the PLO has surrendered. Arafat has bartered away the rights of Palestinians, of Arabs and indeed of all Muslims for peanuts—for the mayorship of Gaza and Jericho. For the millions of Palestinians in exile, the accord is a slap on the face. By hailing the Washington agreement as a model for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute, are we signalling that Pakistan may be ready to settling for something less than the right of self-determination for the people of Kashmir as underwritten by the United Nations? This too is a dangerous implication.

Suggesting the model of PLO-Israeli talks for the proposed India-Pakistan talks and hailing the Washington agreement as a "model" we are unwittingly falling into the trap laid last month by Indian External Affairs Minister Mr Danish Singh When he asked Pakistan to come out with "fresh ideas" and to redefine its "new bottom line" on Kashmir. It should be clear to our rulers, whosoever they may be , that the people will never buy such notions as "new bottom line" or "third option" or "fresh ideas" on Kashmir. Any solution to the problem has to be sought under the umbrella of UN resolution on the subject. And the three basic elements of UN resolution on Kashmir are i) Kashmir is not a part of India ii) the governing principle for the settlement of the dispute is through the exercise of right of self-determination and iii) it is binding both on India and Pakistan to hold plebiscite in Kashmir under the auspices of UNCIP. [UN Commission for India and Pakistan] When Benazir talks of the Washington agreement as the "model" she is losing sight of these three basic elements from which must flow any agreement on Kashmir.

Indian occupied Kashmir is morally, politically, legally and historically part of Pakistan. It is time governments in Pakistan accord to Kashmir the sanctity it deserves. Our defensive and almost apologetic attitude has increased the miseries of the Kashmiri people. False confidence building measures and step- by-step diplomacy have only emboldened the Indians to enact one My Lai after another. Despite the winds of non-confrontation blowing across the globe, let us not shy away from demanding what is our right, especially when the Kashmiris are paying with their blood and honour. Let us commit moral and material help to those that are part and parcel of Pakistan and desire to rejoin us.